

AN
INTERESTING NARRATIVE
OF THE
VOYAGE, SHIPWRECK,
AND
EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES
OF
MR. DRAKE MORRIS, K
(MERCHANT of LONDON).

A NEW EDITION.

London:

PRINTED BY JOHN ABRAHAM, CLEMENT'S LANE;
FOR R. DUTTON, AT HIS CIRCULATING
LIBRARY, BIRCHIN-LANE.

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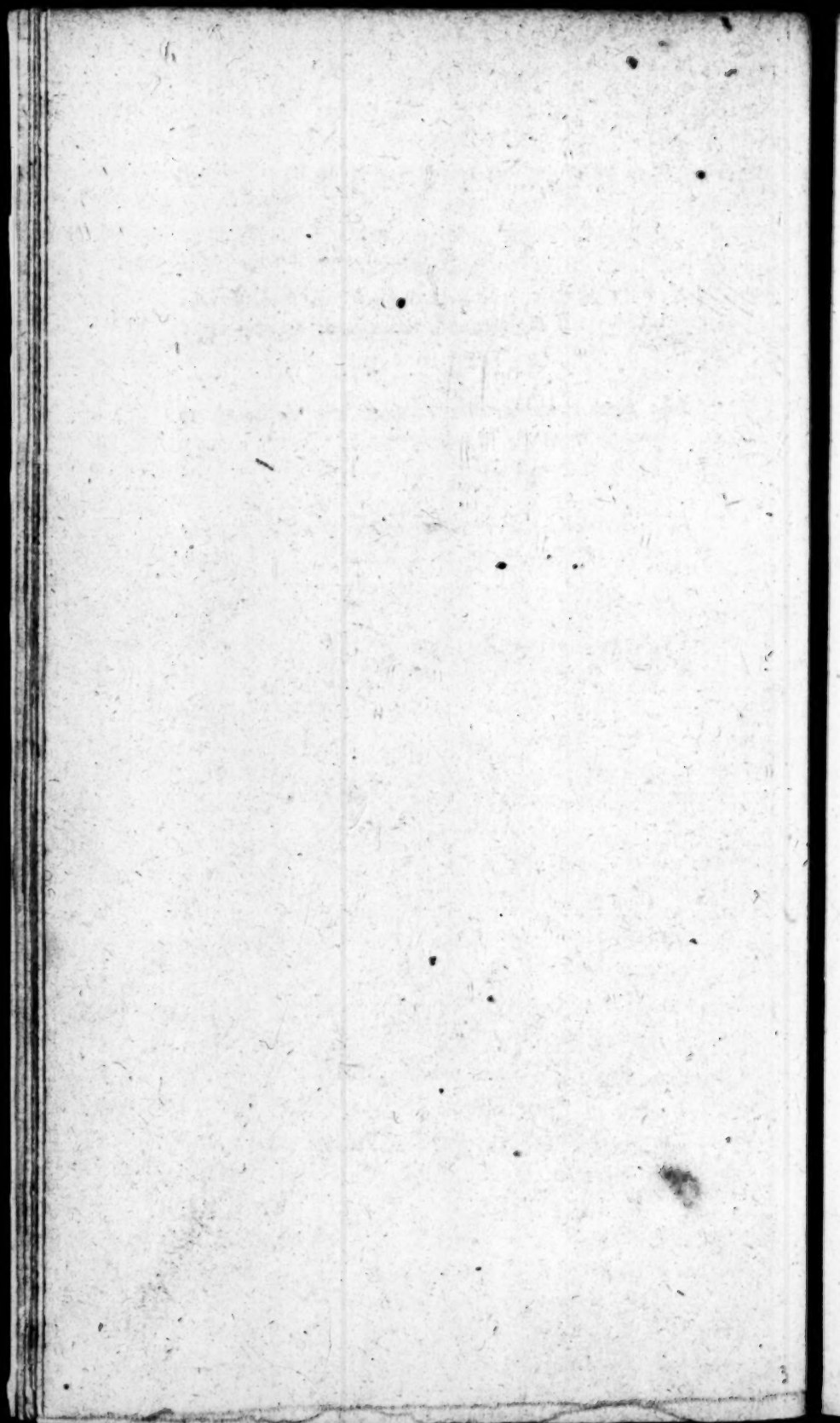
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THE
INTRODUCTION:

*Containing the intent of the book; and the author's
reasons for writing it.*

I DO not pretend to write a fine book, for I have neither sufficient learning nor abilities; but it is in every person's power to set down the truth: and I am sure the various accidents and misfortunes that happened to me, from the time of my first leaving my friends, to my late return to this country, when they are related faithfully, will prove both surprising and useful.

I believe

INTRODUCTION.

I believe so great a number of disasters never befel any one person in the world, in the same space of time; so that I need not add to the number, nor make them worse than they were: neither would that answer the purpose of my writing. I put them down, partly for my own use, and partly for that of other persons; and as it would be to no purpose to deceive myself, if I should afterwards forget any thing; so I would not desire to impose upon others.

I have heard that great persons read history that they may consider what were the consequences of the actions that are related by persons like themselves, in different circumstances; that they may guide their own conduct accordingly. I am sure such an account as this may be of use both to myself for the future part of my life; and to many others: for in the first part of it, there is nothing but what happens to most young persons; and all the rest depended upon that.

I never was obstinate in my life, but I repented of it; as it will sufficiently appear, by the ensuing relation, that I had cause. I never
gave

INTRODUCTION.

gave myself up to any passion, but, when it got the better of my reason, it was sure to bring on some misfortune: this will also be seen in the same manner; and though I repented of it when it was too late, others may take care in time. I am sure, the looking over the accounts of these passages, will be very useful to myself; and, I hope, a great many beside, will read and profit by them.

If I may judge of other persons, by what I feel in myself, I believe few men come to consider any thing truly till they are upwards of thirty; many, perhaps, not till years after that: and some never at all: the accidents in another person's life, may warn such as these, though they do not mind what happens to themselves; and they may be the better for what I have suffered.

In sincere truth, the desire of this, together with that of being useful to myself in the same way, is the cause of my writing this, and having it published.

That it may the better answer that purpose, I have every where added the reflections that
came

INTRODUCTION.

came into my mind, when I found myself in peril; or under misfortunes; and I have done it, to the best of my remembrance, with perfect truth. I have not used many words in these, not to be tedious; but to direct mens minds in this respect, into a right ca^t, I thought might be useful.

Reader, I wish you may reap profit from the whole matter. I desire you will excuse me, if I tell it plainly; but I assure you, whatever I set down is true,

THE
T R A V E L S
OF
Mr. DRAKE MORRIS, MERCHANT.

B O O K I.

Containing an account of the author's family and condition, his reasons for going to sea, and the adventures to which he was exposed in his first voyage.

C H A P I.

The author's family, fortune, and first establishment in the world.

MY father, Mr. James Morris, of the city of York, had once been in possession of a considerable fortune; but being a great sportsman, and of a very expensive temper, he had considerably diminished it before my birth, and soon after was reduced to accept of a small employment in the excise.

Upon his death, I was taken by my uncle Henry, who was my god-father, and having no family of his own, for he was never married, had always looked upon me with a particular regard and affection.

B

I was

I was near fifteen when this change in my situation happened. I had been bred at a school in the country, for learning is very cheap in Yorkshire; and the school-master's family being obliged to ours, and every body knowing me, as my father's estate had lain just by, I had been taken better care of by my master, than some are in these places; and as I grew up and behaved myself decently, the gentlemen round about had been used to make much of me, and invite me to their tables.

By this means at the time when I came up to London, I had some small matter of skill in Latin, and knew more of the world, than might be expected in a country boy, who had almost been left without any body to take care of him.

My uncle, Mr. Henry Morris, of Bishopsgate-street, was at that time a considerable merchant, and I thanked heaven was still alive; though he had sometime left off business: he received me with the greatest kindness, and from that time to the present hour I must needs say looked upon me as a son.

He first put me to an academy for about eight months, in order to perfect me in merchants accounts, and fit me for business: for it is the folly of those country schools, to breed every one as if he were to be a clergyman or a doctor of physic. They teach Latin and Greek, and pay little regard to the useful studies.

Being thus qualified for business, my uncle took me into his counting-house, and employed

ployed me in the nature of a clerk. He gave me twenty pounds to buy any necessaries I wanted; and that I might not want pocket money, he settled upon me sixty pounds a year regular salary, besides my living in the house.

I thought myself the happiest young man in the world; I was free from the restraint of school, and it gave me a great deal of pleasure to be concerned in things of consequence. Heaven knows my heart, I never wished to rise higher, so long as I lived. My uncle was very kind: I did not doubt but he would keep me so long as he lived, and when he died, leave me something to take care of myself.

CHAP. II.

Some changes in the author's affairs, and his considerations thereupon. He falls into a new scene.

I Knew little of the good will my uncle Henry had for me when I supposed the happy condition I enjoyed in my clerkship, was all he designed me. If I was full of gratitude for this, what a filial obedience and respect had his future conduct a right to obtain from me. The person who takes me out of misery to make my fortune, although he were no relation at all, has more right to my observance than my father who destroys

it. Duty must make me obedient to the latter, but gratitude commands my respect for the former; and to a person of a generous mind that is more powerful.

My uncle was one of those merchants who kept his business in compass. He chose rather to have some trouble himself than be ruined by a multiplicity of clerks. The person that was over me when I first came, I found was only kept to let me into the nature of the business; as soon as I was perfect in it, he was discharged; and from that time all went through my hands under the inspection of Mr. Morris himself.

After a twelvemonth's time, he was so satisfied with my conduct, that he let me into an eighth of partnership in the trade, and told me he designed by degrees to put me in possession of the whole. I shall never forget what he said to me on this occasion. Drake, says he, you are a very good young man. I hope for your own sake as well as mine you will continue so. Mind your business, for that is the way to be rich. I got what I have, and it is enough for me. I shall retire into the country as soon as I have settled you in it: and as I have no child, I shall look upon you as my son at my death. Only two things I advise you. Never be bound for another person; and do not think of marrying till you are six and twenty.

Mr. Morris's heart was now set upon leaving off business, and he grew more and more earnest to bring things to a conclusion: he bought a house in Hertfordshire, and from
spending

spending two days a week there, he soon came to being there almost entirely. At first he came to town on Fridays to settle the books, after this I used to carry them down on the Saturday, and stay with him till Sunday afternoon; and very soon thereafter every thing was left to me.

I was thus much earlier than I expected put forward into the world. I did all the business, and letters were no longer directed to Mr. Morris, junior, but to Mr. Drake Morris, merchant, in London. Our correspondents were all satisfied; and my uncle talked every week of coming up to London to settle every thing, and put all the affairs into my hands.

It happened at this time that I became acquainted in the family of Mr. Ed. Brent, a packer, who did business for us; and as I was a single man, and Mr. Brent lived very near, I frequently spent my evening in that family. I mention this on account of something to be named hereafter, and that I may do justice to Mr. Brent's character, who has been said, by some persons, to be the cause of my misfortunes, but nothing is more false.

A friend of mine being one of the stewards to the feasts of the sons of the clergy, desired me to take a ticket which I did; and I happened to sit very near a young gentlewoman, who I thought took particular notice of me. She was very handsome, and I found soon that I could not mind any other object. I really did not hear the music, nor see any one person but her all the time after. She was somewhat pale, but there was a delicacy in her whole

person, face, and manner, that nothing could exceed. I bowed to her when she went away; and she made me a civil curtsey. I went home very grave. I remembered my uncle's charge, and I resolved to think no more of the lady, although I thought if he could have seen her, he would not have disapproved my passion.

CHAP. III.

More conflicts in the author's mind, upon an important subject.

I Spent the evening of the day, mentioned in the last chapter, as I usually did, at Mr. Brent's; they perceived me to be very thoughtful; but I would not tell any one the occasion. I remembered my uncle's commands, and I was resolved never to break them. I could not forget the gentlewoman, but I never named the matter to any one; and I made an oath never to inquire after her. It is foolish to make oaths on these occasions; a man may as well keep his resolution without; and if he should break it, it will give him pain.

I continued a month rather worse than at first, and I made an excuse to my friends, that I was not well. At length, going one evening to Mr. Brent's, I passed by the same young gentlewoman in the street: my heart fluttered, but I would not speak to her. Somebody knocked at the door soon after I was there,

there, and they said it was Miss Fortrey, for they expected her that evening.

It was the very person. We were both very much confounded; but she put it off with so much decency and civility, that I was much more charmed than before. I had made no oath to leave the place where she should be, for I did not know I should ever meet her; so I stayed. I learned she was the daughter of a clergyman in the country, and had a pretty fortune. I waited on her home, and requested that some friend of her's would come to me next day, or let me wait on him, for I had something serious to mention.

Here I was at once involved in disobedience to the commands of my benefactor, and breach of the intent of my oath. Heaven forgive me; I acknowledge my fault, and I have suffered enough for it. She was unwilling to deny me, but she knew not how to comply with it. However, the next day a clergyman, her relation, came to me; and I told him truly my situation.

It was his advice that I should disclose the matter to my uncle. And Mr. Brent, who now knew the matter, advised me not to think of it at all, seeing I was so sensible it was against his inclination. However, I took my own counsel, and I visited the gentlewoman daily, and kept it hid from my kind relation.

I daily waited for his coming to London, to settle me for myself intirely; as I ungratefully considered I should then be independent. I am not bad in my heart, but love made me do any thing. I ought to have taken care

how I engaged in it: had my affairs been otherwise, there is nothing it might not have tempted me to.

My uncle delayed his coming up; and in the mean time some body told it in his neighbourhood, that Miss Fortrey was going to be married to a merchant in Bishopgate-street. He soon found out the name, and he came up to town. He taxed me with it; and I concealed nothing from him; hoping his approbation.

Young man, said he, if you had a right to my approbation, you would have told me of this before; however, as you have acknowledged every thing, it is a sign of your integrity. I find you are not fit to be left yet to yourself; so I shall come to town again, and take the business upon myself. He told me farther, I should be ruined to have a family before I knew what to do with them: if he had married when he was a boy, he should have had nothing to give me: he said, the lady's merit he knew nothing of, but her fortune was nothing to what I might expect; and that I must learn to know myself better.

C H A P. IV.

A design of the author's, which does not answer his expectations.

MR. Morris stayed in town that night; and after going a day or two to his country seat, came and settled again to business.

business. He continued me in my small partnership; but he forbade me, if I valued his favor, from seeing the person again; and he took away his business from Mr. Brent, to his great loss, because he supposed he had a hand in it. People that have not been married, are always severe upon these subjects; and many times those who are innocent suffer, because they cannot clear themselves. Mr. Brent had this comfort, that he did not deserve what he bore; but, for my part, I was doubly miserable, in the loss of the person I loved; for I did not value the injury in my affairs; and in the remembering that I had brought it upon myself by own folly.

I had read of people going to sea, because they were crossed in love, and it ran in my head every moment. I could not bear to see any place where I had used to be with her, and I was afraid of falling again into my uncle's displeasure; nay, I grew to hate that worthy gentleman, because he was the cause of my unhappiness, forgetting that he was the author of all my good fortune.

Among the persons who came to our house on business, was Mr. William Tanner, captain of a small ship that went backwards and forwards between London and Antigua; they called her the Friends Commission. I had done captain Tanner a great many kindnesses, as the opportunities had fallen in my way, and we were very friendly and intimate together. I told him one day of my resolution not to stay in England, and he approved of it; he said, when a man was uneasy in his

mind, the only thing in the world was to travel into foreign parts. I asked him if I should go to Antigua, whether I could not get a good place as a clerk, being so well versed in the nature of business? he said he would insure it. He would give me my passage, and engage I should get a hundred moidores a year, and have the care of a whole plantation; and twenty to one, as I was a likely young man, make my fortune by marrying some rich widow.

I was vexed at the last proposal, for I was resolved never to be married to any woman, without I could have Miss Fortrey: but, however, I liked the rest. He offered to give me my passage, and I soon settled every thing to go. I made up my accounts very fairly; and I one morning went into my uncle's bed-chamber, and told him my resolution.

He at first was very angry, and called me wrong-headed young man, and said he would give himself no farther trouble about me; but at length he spoke more kindly. He said he was sorry for my foolish love, but I might get the better of it, without leaving my country: he begged me very much to stay, and at last, when he saw I was obstinate, he cried heartily; and, telling me he could not live a great many years, added that he had left me all. He said, he had set his heart upon me, and as I was now like a son to him, he begged I would not go from him.

The more he entreated me, the more obstinate I was. I was pierced to the heart to see his tears, and I wished to comply; but my

my foolish stubbornness would not let me. In short, I went away when he did not think I would; and taking what was my own out of the house, I took boat at Tower-stairs, and went aboard the ship, being to sail the next day.

The captain had some friends aboard that night, and we were very jovial, my heart was light at getting out of England; and I desired them to tell my uncle how merry they left me.

Captain Tanner was very civil and obliging, and comforted me as much as he could about leaving my relations; we sat together very sociably till about two o'clock in the morning, and having drank with him more than I am used to, I soon fell very fast asleep, and had as sound a night's rest as if nothing had happened.

CHAP. V.

A very sad conclusion of what was begun in the last chapter.

I Had been very merry over night, and had given myself no concern about my kind uncle's uneasiness. So much insensibility and ingratitude had I for all my obligations to him. In the morning, I perceived a strange motion: and attempting to get up I was sick, but this I attributed to the liquor I had drank over night; and I laid myself down again.

After two or three hours more, they called me up to dinner. I went upon deck, and we were out at sea, nothing but the water and the heavens were to be seen: my heart fainted within me, and I was sick again. I thought it a terrible thing that there was now no going back, for the vessel must proceed on its voyage. I now remembered my uncle's tears, and my own ingratitude; and I would have given the world to be in Bishopsgate-street. I cried. But soon after recovering my spirits, I thought of the pleasant passage we were likely to have, and how agreeable it would be to have nothing to do, but to enjoy my friend's conversation.

I went down to dinner, but this was a new shock to me, the table was not like my uncle's, a dirty cloth, and bad provisions: I could have destroyed myself for my folly. While I was in a very thoughtful mood the captain came down. I'll tell you what, Mr. Morris, says he, we are now under sail, and it is fit you and I should settle together. I was surprized at this behaviour, because he looked so differently from what he always used to do upon me. I really did not mind the words he said, his way of speaking so surprized me.

I was going to sit to the table, but he took me by the arm, come, come, says he, will you indent with me for four years; there are those pretty young fellows have done the same, and why should you be against it. He pointed to four or five young men whom I never saw before; but they looked I thought as sorrowful as myself.

I told

I told him of our agreement, but he made a laugh of it. It does not signify, says he, what we say when we are ashore, you are at Rome now, and you must do as they do at Rome, and so here sign your name to this paper.

It is impossible for words to describe the terrors I was in, but I refused to sign. I told him if I must pay my passage, I had wherewithal aboard; but as to any thing farther, I did not understand it, nor would do any such thing. He told me as to what I had aboard, it was safe enough: it was all under hatches; and he could not have it looked into till he unloaded: he should not take my word there was money; and find perhaps he was a fool after he had done. What I could say stood for nothing; he insisted upon my indenting and I would not; so he kicked me out of the cabin; and bad them put me to work. Oh! what were my thoughts at that moment. My ingratitude and obstinacy flew in my face; and I would have given all the world to have been once more in the counting-house.

It is needless to tell every circumstance. Because I would not bind myself for a slave, he made me work all the passage, beating me in the most barbarous manner, and hardly allowing me the necessaries of life.

At length we arrived at Antigua, and I thought of nothing but my revenge. I was determined to go before the first magistrate I could find, and bring this deceitful and unjust fellow to justice. Captain Tanner had been a kid-

a kidnapper too many years not to be too cunning for me. I soon found all my designs frustrated, and was offered for sale as a slave; as if I had sold myself or been a transported felon.

CHAP. VI.

The author's affairs brought to an unexpected conclusion.

I Was offered to several persons who would not come up to Tanner's price, for he valued me according to my skill in merchants accounts; the rest being only of handicraft trades he soon disposed of, for there is a settled price for all those things. At length he was told of Mr. Joseph Langford, a gentleman who had a vast plantation, and wanted one to manage a great deal of business for him. Mr. Langford did not scruple the price, but he said he would examine me first himself, and accordingly he did.

The captain threatened me very hard if I told a word about how he used me; but I fairly told Mr. Langford the whole story. He said a great many pretended the same; but he really believed I said the truth, and he would not have any thing to do with the matter; moreover he promised me he would see me righted. However, I heard no more of this, only that the gentleman applied, and they said, it was not for the good of the island

island to be too strict with the captains of vessels.

I was upon captain Tanner's hands a good while, and was very hardly used; but at last he disposed of me to one that did not much mind how he came by any thing. I shall not set down his name for he is dead, and why should I cast a reflection upon his family. I told him of the effects I had aboard, but he made a laugh of that; and to this hour I never got one farthing value of them. I was surprised at the captain's folly, because I was resolved to write over to England, and I thought he must have known my uncle would be his ruin: but I was soon set right upon this head: for I heard he was going to Havannah, where he was contracted to a rich Spanish lady: and so this being his last voyage, he was resolved he would make the most of it.

In fine I was left in the service of a very bad master; but Mr. Jonas Langford hearing of the captain's not going back to England, made no question of the truth of all I had told him. He spoke with my master, and the principal people of the island, and said what a scandal it was to the country to join with kidnapping captains, whom they saw to be rogues; and who would one day reap the reward of their villany.

This worthy gentleman prevailed with my master to make my place easier to me, till there could be a return of letters from England; and I wrote to my uncle telling him all the captain's usage, and got my letter witnessed by the best people in the place. I within told him

him how truly sensible I was of my folly, and my ungrateful behaviour to him; and only desired he would get me back to see how I would conduct myself.

I was obliged to wait with patience all the time of the vessel's sailing for England, and the vessel's coming to Antigua; and had it not been for the goodness of Mr. Langford, I should have lived a miserable life for want of every thing: but he supplied me in the most kind manner: though by this virtuous conduct, he got the ill will of many on the Island.

At length came my uncle's letters, which settled every thing to my intire satisfaction. All the country now flocked about me, and I was treated by every body with the greatest respect. My kind uncle had taken care to settle every thing for my instant discharge, and he wrote to me in the tenderest manner. He told me he forgave me all my faults; and what was more, he said, he had been to see Miss Fortrey, and was so well pleased with her behaviour and her character, that he would consent I should marry her as soon as I came home. Moreover he told me he would leave me in the intire possession of his business, and at his death give me all he had. He added, that he had never had a moment's peace after I went, as he knew himself to be the cause of it; and he never should have been at peace in his own mind again, if he had not taken all these steps by way of reparation.

C H A P. VII.

Some very reasonable expectations, and their event.

I thought all that I had suffered now was nothing. The joy of seeing my uncle again, would have been sufficient happiness to me, but his approbation of my love and his consent that I should be married to the only person in the world I ever loved, was a transport beyond what I believe any man ever felt before. And I suppose the miserable condition out of which I was relieved, added not a little to the joy of the whole. To be sure no person ever was more sensible of his happiness; and I question if any one whatsoever was ever so perfectly happy. But still I was impatient to see my father and my wife, for so in my heart I truly called them now. But I was forced to wait some time for a passage. There is no complete happiness in the world, for I now grew melancholy again, though fortune favored me in every thing.

Whilst I waited with this impatience for a passage, I fell ill of a very terrible disorder, that is common in those parts; and I verily believe, had it not been for the skill of Mr. Ingram, who was then in those parts, I should not have out-lived the second day. I was upon the mending hand however, and had been some days out of danger, when I heard of a vessels going for England. This was
the

the James and Mary, Thomas Wigmore commander, that was to sail on the Tuesday following. I got strength the sooner for this news; and taking leave of all my kind friends and benefactors, while I wanted it in this island, I set sail for England.

Oh! what different thoughts were in my heart now, from those when I was coming away from my own country; and with what satisfaction did I count every day that brought me nearer to my friends. Captain Wigmore was a friendly civil man, and treated me with respect; and I had all the reason in the world to be satisfied with my voyage, I blessed heaven every hour of the day, that had been pleased to punish me for my faults, and not more than they deserved, though it was very severely; and that when I had thoroughly repented of them, had been pleased to bless me to the utmost of my heart's desire; and farther than I had even dared to wish.

Those that would enjoy happiness thoroughly, should first of all suffer some misfortune. For my part, I could at this time scarce tell how to bear my good fortune. The people on board all respected me; and the weather was the most favorable that could be expected or desired; and we had expectation of a speedy passage.

I was upon deck one fine evening, the sun was setting, and there was a cloud in the sky; and only wind enough to move the surface of the sea in round waves. I have seen a great many sea-pieces which the painters have been proud of, and to be sure they are pretty;
but

but there is nothing to compare with nature. I had perhaps many an opportunity of seeing the same before ; but the mind must be at ease to enjoy these things : any thing agreeable upon the sea was as new to me, as if I had never before been out of sight of land. Just at sun-set I had been entertaining myself with the sight of the mast of another vessel rising out of the water, and, as long as the day light would let me, I had watched its growing higher and higher ; but as the vessel was going nearly in the same course with ourselves, this was but slowly.

I had, after this evening's observation, retired, (after a slight supper with the captain) to bed. Our discourse had been previously on my affairs, for I was from morning to night talking of my happiness, and I was now in a sweet dream : my uncle was presenting to me the hand of Miss Fortrey, and my friend Mr. Brent attending, and every thing had the air of a reality, when I was alarmed with 'a very terrible noise. I supposed it thunder, tho' the fineness of the preceding evening seemed to make that almost impossible. One hears very imperfectly any noise that wakes one ; but in a moment the same terrible burst was repeated, and I heard great confusion over head, and, as I thought the voices of strangers, and in a strange language.

In two or three minutes, for I was all this time too much confounded and terrified to stir ; every thing was torn open, and three or four strange faces, and in dresses different from ours, were at my side. I was in terrors
not

not to be described; but still I thought this was no more than a dream, though it seemed so very perfect. I had been used, in my former condition, to very frightful dreams, and I could have sworn this was one of them. But I was quickly undeceived. The persons I had seen enter were tumbling every thing about; they came to me at length, and one of them, with a terrible voice, but with words I did not understand, tore me out of bed, and threw me against a chest with such violence that he broke my arm, and at the same time gave me a stroke upon the head with a cutlass, that covered me with blood.

The next thing that I perceived after this, but it was some time after, was my kind friend, Captain Wigmore, with his hands tied behind him, without coat, waistcoat, or shirt, and one of the people whipping him with a cat-o'-nine-tails, and another standing by, and speaking to him in English, but with an Irish note; by Jesus, honey, but we know well enough there is money aboard of you, and we will tickle your buff till you tell where it is.

As much in pain as I was, I declare that the sight of this worthy gentleman, in such a situation, gave me as much sorrow as I felt myself. I cast my eyes wishfully up to him; but he was too much in torture to regard me; however, the person just named saw it, and said, why, here is one of your own people now says out of his eyes, that you have; why don't you speak, you fool, and save your precious limbs? for we shall play hell with

with you if you go on silent. With that he came to me, and seeing I could not lift up my head, he stooped, and asked me if I knew where the money was? and told me, if I shewed them, I should be taken care of. I answered as well as I could, indeed, I believed there was none; upon which he gave me a kick, and returned to the Captain.

I saw all the people, except two, served in the same manner; they, I suppose, were killed; all these were wounded; and some of them looked as if they were expiring. They were at last all turned into the boat, and I, who was too weak to walk, was tumbled over among them.

The agony of my wounds was the least of my pain. O good God! said I, how uncertain a thing is any man's happiness, I went to bed last night as blessed, and with a prospect of being as blessed as any living creature could be, and I am this morning the most wretched of all mankind. I expected we were to be turned loose at sea; and though death would have been a relief to my agony, yet I could not prevail with myself to submit fully to it, when I reflected upon my affectionate uncle, and my dear love. I see a man may sometimes be rendered unhappy even by his happiness. It would have been a relief to me to have died; but I feared it because of these; and though I saw no prospect of any thing but cruelty and misery, I would have, by choice, undergone it all, and that for ever so long a time, to keep alive the hope of once again seeing what was so dear to me.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

The author enters into a new and unexpected scene.

MY companions in the boat knew well enough into whose hands we had fallen, though I was so intirely ignorant of it. They told me we were in the hands of Spaniards; and as they seemed a merciless gang, and to have no commission but their own pleasure, it was not possible to say what would become of us. The vessel whose mast I had seen in the evening, and pleased myself so with observing, was this fatal cruiser; and they had at that time been crowding all the sail they could to come up with us, though too distant for us to perceive it, and had taken the opportunity of the night to board us.

I could perceive great consternation among all my companions at an accident at once so terrible and so unexpected; but I neither understood nor regarded what they talked of. It was enough for me to know I had lost all those hopes that were a day before so promising and so pleasing to me. I submitted, and they did what they pleased without my regarding.

Mean time some of the Spanish people came into the boat; they carried us on board their own ship, and immediately threw us into a miserable place, dark, wet, and of so nauseous a smell, that I thought we should have

have been instantly suffocated; one of the company begged of the Irishman, as he threw us down, that he might have his hands unfettered (for we were all ironed) to dress my wounds; but it was refused.

I could perceive that we were soon under full sail again, but whether bound, it was impossible to guess. What became of our ship I never heard afterwards; and as to the captain, he died the next day of the barbarous usage he received, and in two days more another of the company. This was a terrible prospect to me, if any thing in my situation could be called terrible, for I had nothing to expect but the same fate; and yet I must confess, as miserable as I was, death appeared terrible to me.

After about five days, a person came down and did something to my arm, which gave me terrible pain; however, as unfeeling as this was performed, I have reason to believe it was done skillfully, for it is very well now, and I have perfectly the use of it: the same person sewed up my head. I was in terrible agony; but, I bless heaven, nothing remains of that but a large scar, and the marks of the stitches, which seem to have been made with a packing-needle. He put a plaister on my head, and tied some cuttings of an old banbox about my arm, and, hitting me a great slap of the face, said something I did not understand, and I never saw him afterwards.

No mortal creatures ever lived the life we did in this place, without light, and almost
without

without food; what we were allowed, was such as dogs would not have tasted, and scarce any water. The rats run about among us as familiarly as if they had been tame, and in the night would often bite us. Some of my companions expected we should have been devoured by them, and for my part, it was impossible to keep them away from my wounds, if I lay down but a moment.

I now remembered my miserable situation under captain Tanner, and wished for such a one in exchange for this, as a man would long for a holyday. See what it is to experience variety of scenes; that which we take to be the worst that can happen, while we suffer it, is nothing to what may come afterwards. I remember my ingratitude and disobedience, and called myself a fool for thinking I had been before sufficiently punished for them

CHAP. IX.

The author is carried on shore, and received much as he expected. His intentions and resolutions.

HOW long we were in this miserable condition I cannot pretend to say, nor is it material; we had very little distinction of day and night, and no account of time. Perhaps it appeared to us much longer than it really was. However, at length we could perceive that the vessel came to an anchor, and soon after we were taken on shore.

For

For myself I cannot speak, for there was no glass; but, to be sure, such pitiable spectacles as the rest of the company made, never were seen in human shape before. Our beards were grown to a monstrous length, as also our nails; and for clothes, they were in tatters, and nasty, beyond all that can be described. We were led along through the streets of a poor dirty looking town, and the inhabitants, to my great astonishment, seemed to pay very little regard to us. Such sights, I suppose, were common to them, else our very aspect must have commanded their pity. The first thing I had taken notice of was, that there were turtles about the coast; and we saw some hung up to be sold. There hung up also in one place, at a sort of butchers, a large creature like an ox, just killed, but it had only two feet, and a tail like a fish; the flesh, where it appeared, looked as white as veal. I saw also several beautiful birds like parrots, that imitated the human voice, but they were quite unlike those we have in England, their bodies were red like scarlet, and their wings blue, and other colours very fine and beautiful.

I could not guess by what I saw, what part of the world we were in. The people were low and swarthy, and spoke a language I did not understand; and all the things I saw about me were so unlike whatever I had seen, that I seemed in a new world. We were driven along fettered like criminals, and at length were delivered to the keeper of a little low
C
dungeon,

dungeon, who turned us in with no remorse or regard.

I could not have believed any thing in human nature could have been so void of humanity: but I find custom is more than nature; and those who are used to be cruel, think nothing of it.

Our prison here was very little better than that we had lain in so long before, and our provisions almost as bad. We were in the dark and fettered; and the rats were as troublesome as before. I was also strangely surpris'd two or three times to feel something cold and soft crawling up the naked part of my legs; which, when I shook it off, fell to the ground with a noise. I found afterwards this was a sort of snail, that creeps up walls and damp places like our garden snails; but it is as big as a man's doubled fist, and finely coloured. I have seen just such at sea, but never thought they lived out of the water.

In this dungeon we were kept a long time. I cannot be certain about it, but I verily believe not less than seven weeks. They gave us sometimes a lump of the flesh of that creature I had seen hanging up. It is a sea beast, they call it Manatu. The fore feet are like hands, and it swims, they say, very quick, though so large a creature. Sometimes also we had a stinking turtle, and some decayed fruits, plantanes, and bananas, when they would not touch them themselves, and our drink generally was water, sometimes a little sour wine, like very bad vinegar. This was a fine exchange for the plenty of my
uncle's

uncle's table, and the respect of all his acquaintance.

By degrees we found out where we were. It was a little town on the island of Cuba, one of the Spanish islands in the West Indies; they call it Baracoa; and it seems this is one of the great resorts of these cruel people, who seize upon any vessel they meet, that they think cannot resist them: they go out in small vessels well manned, and every thing that is weaker than themselves is plunder. If they should be pursued, which is next to impossible, they are safe, for the harbour, though very convenient for this little craft, will admit nothing larger.

I expected every day, from the time of our being put into prison, some new scene of misery; but, to this hour, I cannot find out for what we were kept there: my companions, I suppose, were informed afterwards, but I never saw them after my escape.

I had taken notice that our prison had three gates, one within another, all strong and massy, but that the keeper, when he left them, never troubled himself to lock any more than one of them, - that which was nearest to us; and indeed there was enough strength in this, and little enough probability of our attempting to get away, to make him very easy on this head. Beside the lock, which, by the noise of the wards, we could perceive to be very strong and large; each door had two iron bolts. These we never saw; but by the noise they also made, we could perceive they were strong and thick in.

an uncommon degree. At first the keeper, whenever he went from us, had used to lock the three doors, and fasten all the bolts; but by degrees he abated of this great caution. We could perceive he omitted it by degrees, till at last I took notice for several evenings together, that when he fastened us in, he only put too the inner door, and did not give himself the trouble to fasten this any way, but by the upper bolt.

I named this to my companions, and proposed our attempting an escape; but they all declined it. Their spirits were quite broke with this terrible usage, and they saw nothing that we could do with ourselves, if we succeeded; in the mean time, if we failed therein, no doubt but we should suffer some terrible punishment from these cruel masters.

They had not the cause to wish for liberty that I had. My desire of seeing my uncle, who I knew must be all this time miserable for me, would have tempted me to a great deal; but I had even more than this; my love made me despise all thought of danger. I told them, that if they despised the attempt, I would make it alone; and all I desired of them, was to be secret about it. This was no difficult thing to obtain, although they feared the consequence; for they had no words to tell tales; not one of them speaking a syllable of the language.

William Toring, one of the company, an elderly man, and one I had a great respect for, spoke to me very wisely upon the subject. He told me, there was no hope of escaping, if
I could

I could get out of the prison; and added, that I endangered all their lives as well as my own, by trying. Beside, he said, he did not doubt but we should be freed some way or other soon without this rash attempt. These people says he, keep us in prison at some expence, though it be little, and are at some trouble about us; all this is not for nothing; nor will they keep us so all our lives, for it does them no good. Be assured, Mr. Morris, says he, we shall all be set at liberty some way or other before it is long, and the only remedy is patience. I believe I should have listened to what he said, had not James Younger took upon him to make an answer. I do not doubt, says he, but they have a reason for what they do; and, I suppose, as soon as any vessel goes, they will send us to work in the mines for the remainder of our days, naked, and whipped for every suspicion. This thought got the better of all my growing patience. To be buried underground of a certainty for life; and to be sure of never seeing my friend, and my love, any more. Any death was better; and I chose not to live a minute under such apprehensions. I only desired them to be secret, and I would undertake the whole myself. I engaged to open the gate for them, if they should think fit to follow me; if not, I promised to do all I could for them; and, in case I should be discovered, to take the whole upon myself.

This night, as the former, the goaler, only fastened the upper bolt of the door. We could know so much by the sound: I waited

patiently till morning. There was not a great deal of difference between day and night, in such a place as our dungeon; however, the sun-rise always let in a little light; and I made the best of it. We, who were used to the dark, could see in it beyond what any one would conceive. At first we saw nothing; but by degrees we could distinguish some things; and the light was painful when the keeper came in.

The door shut pretty close, but the wood had shrunk a little; so that when the others were any thing a-jar, we could see the light through the crevice. Examining this, I found where the bolt run; and the next thing was to find some instrument to put it back.

Groping about the walls, I at length found an iron staple, but it was very fast driven in the stone. With great labour I got it out before night; and I spent the greatest part of the night, while my companions were asleep, in straitening it.

In the morning when all was quiet, I tried to get it into the crack, but it was too thick: I knew not what to do. I began rubbing it upon the stones, but they were soft: at last I found one in the wall harder than the rest, and there I worked two days successively. I found by my feeling it made the iron smooth, and so I knew it worked upon it.

I continued my labour, turning the spike, for such it was now, from side to side, and only tried to whet down so much of it, that it should get within the crack. After six days I thought it would do; but now one or others

other of the outer doors was shut so that I could not see the place of the bolt. At last I found an opportunity. I found I had completed my instrument, and I could stir the bolt to its place. At night the keeper went his way, and only put too this bolt as usual. I staid till toward morning, and then got the gate open with ease.

CHAP. X.

The author obtains his liberty by his industry, and the effects of it.

I Pressed my companions, one by one, to follow me, but all in vain; they feared the consequences, and preferred being carried to the mines, as they expected. The person that had advised me so much against the enterprize, argued with me more and more; but I was obstinate. I recommended them all to divine providence, and never from that hour saw any of them.

It wanted about an hour of day-break when I left this terrible dungeon. I knew not which way to take, but wandered about the streets till towards day. At length I saw the sea; and I made towards it with all speed. In my way I stumbled over something soft, and it proved to be a man. Just on one side was a great vessel of melted pitch over a smoking fire of embers. He had been, I suppose, set to watch it, and had fallen asleep.

The fire was in a hole like a saw-pit, and the vessel was like a brewer's cooler, just raised above the ground. The minute I trod upon the man, he waked; and the little daylight that by this time shone in the place, discovering to him a haggard creature, with fetters on his legs, he cried out very loud. I caught hold of him, and despair giving me strength, struggled and got the better of him, but all this while he cried out louder and louder. I heard doors open. I was sure to be apprehended; what was I to do. The Lord forgive me for the murder; I threw the Spaniard down into the vessel of pitch, and he was destroyed in a moment.

The splashing of the pitch as he fell in threw some over: this took fire, and instantly all the rest was in a blaze; and I could see a house just by begin to burn. People were all leaving their houses, and I gave myself up for lost. As I was casting up my eyes to heaven, begging pardon for the murder I had out of necessity committed, and which now answered no purpose, I saw, by the light of the flame, a vessel at a small distance, and four or five persons hurrying into a boat, close under the shore, to get into it.

Despair pointed out every thing as eligible. I ran toward the place; and as I was very near, came at once into the water. It was deep; and I was fettered. The noise I made in falling, alarmed the persons who were at the boat-side; one of them jumped into it, and put off, to my assistance; but what was

was my transport to hear him say, as he put off, By G—, one of them is tumbled down the bank.

The sound of my own language gave me spirits, and I cried out for God's sake help me. The boat was now close, and the person in it cried hift! hift! whoever you are. He took me in, and they called to him from on shore: but he went directly to the ship.

As soon as he had got me up, seeing me fettered, he ran to the cabin, and getting a small steel saw, cut through the noose in a minute. He threw the chains into the sea, and without saying one word rowed back to his companions. The confusion seemed to favour them, for one side of the street was on fire by this time; and they were no sooner on board, than they stood off to sea.

I knew not what to think of my situation, but I was full of satisfaction. To be among my countrymen must be well: and I thought I should be at home. Alas my expectations were quickly damped, all the people, beside him who took me up, were Spaniards; and they seemed a desperate set of ruffians.

They looked with great surprise upon me; but he who had brought me among them soon explained the mystery to me. These are a set of brave fellows, says he, my lad, whoever you are: I shall tell them you are an old shipmate of mine; and they will be glad to let you share with them; we wanted a hand, and where the devil you came from nobody can guess; but cheer up, I tell you they

will be glad of you; and so set about business.

They came one by one, and shook me by the hand; and I found were very glad of me. We drank some spirits, I did not know the name of them, together, and stood away from shore with all the sail we could make: but there was not much wind, so that we could not make any great way, though we had all the day before us.

All this time the houses were blazing; and I am apt to believe, the greatest part of the town was consumed: as it grew dark the fire seemed more strong; and though we had lost sight of houses and land, there was a great glow upon the water. We found it was impossible to do any business, for it was in a manner a calm: so toward evening we set down to the bowl and got very merry together.

Now that we were all on board, our company was no more than eight: so we agreed to watch three and three, and then two. The watches were to be three hours each. We took them by lot, and I was one of the two last. We had all drank deep, and my companions took their turns, I dare say in no condition to do much good.

What little wind there was blew so unfavourably, that we could make very little way all night. It was nine when the first watch was set, so I had to rest till three; my companion roused me out of a very sound sleep, for fatigue, fear, and drink, all had had their share in it. One of the Spaniards watched with me, we neither of us seemed much

much qualified for keeping our eyes open, but we saw little to be done and no danger.

I cannot tell how long I had been in a doze, when I was waked by a noise at the ship's side. I ran to the place and a man's head and shoulders were above the side. I was not enough in my senses for fear, but I knew he had no business to be there, and I saw a cutlass drawn in his hand; I struck him over the face with mine, and he fell into the sea. In the same alarm and knowing as little what I did, I snatched up my blunderbuss, for that was our watch weapon, and discharged it upon the others that were getting up the sides; they all fell into their boat or into the water, my companion's blunderbuss was the next weapon: I heard them on the other side; and crossing deck, I poured this into the other boat.

My companion was but rubbing his eyes all this time, for the whole was done in less than half a minute; but in an instant more, all the company were up, and all was horror and confusion. A volley of small arms had been poured in upon us from another boat, but that being fired on the side where I had been, I had escaped by going to the other; we were now fired upon from several quarters at once, and nothing could equal the terror of the scene. The sea looked like blood, for we were still within the sight of the influence of the fire, and it still raged; and the volleys from the several boats; several of the shots from which hit the masts, added to the terror.

I had never been in an engagement before, and this was made more terrible by the night: neither could we see the number of the enemy. We continued saving ourselves as well as we could, and firing from our small arms at any thing we saw upon the water, or at any place whence we saw a fire upon us; but I believe we did little execution now on either side.

As to orders we had none, each man did his best; and none more than myself, for none could so much dread being taken. At length, day began to break, and we saw there were no less than fifteen boats about us, and some others coming. We wasted our powder to little purpose on both sides, for they kept out of fire an hour or more; at length we saw them gather round the largest boat, and two men from each of the others got into it. I now gave all up for lost, we were none of us yet hurt, but we were only eight against thirty; and we saw they came directly to board us. Six of the company with each a musket in his hand, and another beside him stood upon the deck, to fire upon them as soon as they should come within good reach. The Englishman had posted himself at a couple of swivel guns we had: and for my part, I had my musket and one of the blunderbusses by me. In this manner we stood waiting their attack. It was now broad day light; and they seemed as resolute as we; they came up in silence, with one man at the head, who gave the signals. They retained their fire as we did ours, determined
to

to do execution. The rest of the boats followed them slowly at a little distance.

What was to become of eight brave fellows, exposed to the fire of four times their number, and those, as it seemed, resolved every man to take his aim. I gave us up all the sacrifices of the first volley. They still came nearer; and I heard one of the Spaniards speak very angrily to the Englishman at the swivel guns; as I supposed bidding him fire, for they would kill farther off. He answered in plain English, and with an horrible imprecation, that he would turn them upon the first man that came near him.

I was more alarmed at such dissention among ourselves. Still the enemy came nearer. They were now certainly in reach, and I was impatient. I found every man on board us did as he pleased; and I fired my musket, taking aim (God forgive me) at the breast of the man who stood upon the head of the boat. He fell. Our people gave a great shout, discharged their arms, and hid themselves; from a full volley of the enemy not a man of us was touched; but we had done some execution among their people. They seemed in confusion for a few moments; but then they rowed up briskly, cutlasses in hand, and two other boats full of men, made what haste they could on each side of the large one. We gave them another volley, which killed three or four; but they were still many to one of us. They came on with double speed; and now my countryman, who had not minded the imprecations of the rest,
took

took aim with one of his swivel guns; this he had loaded with a single bullet. It killed or wounded two; and, as he foresaw, though we little thought of it, went through the side of the vessel. He called to us to fire our small arms; we did so, and killed some; they were in too much confusion to help themselves, and the boat sunk in a few moments. In this time the boats that followed fired two volleys, and one of our men was killed, and one wounded. We were now only six. And the two boats, not intimidated at the fate of their companions, rowed up to board us. When they were very near, my countryman discharged the other swivel gun into one, and I fired the blunderbuss into the other. This swivel was loaded with musket shot, so that it did not sink the boat, but it killed several; and my blunderbuss did not do less execution. Those who were left alive rowed off, and we fired with our musket upon them, and brought some down.

The rest of the boats were now thin of men; but they kept aloof, firing at times upon us, though doing no execution. At length, after calling a council of war, they fairly rowed back, and those that had been coming up with them. We fired after them with one or two swivel guns; but I believe we did no farther execution.

C H A P. XI.

The author begins to understand his situation and condition.

AFTER the engagement was over, I received the congratulations of the company. They extolled my vigilance and courage to the skies, and thought it the highest piece of good fortune they had ever met with, that I joined them. Their gestures shewed me thus much ; and my companion, who understood somewhat of their language, told me the same. They made him the same compliment on his use of the swivel gun, and said, the English were the best fellows in the world.

I now was made to understand the nature of my situation. These were a set of braves who had run away with a ship by night, with intent to live by piracy. The people had not missed her during the first of the confusion occasioned by the fire ; which, to increase my importance with them, I let them know was my making, and by what means. My countryman and interpreter acquainted them with what I said, and they extolled me again to the skies : and called me doubly the author of their safety.

It was by general consent the people of the town had come out against us, the calm of the wheather favoured them : and the person at the head of the large boat, was master of the vessel

vessel. It was therefore my shooting him occasioned that great shout: for when the owner was killed, they thought they had a right of possession: and it is no wonder they fought desperately, for they were sure what was to happen to them, if they were taken and carried back to the town.

I was ready to die with anguish, when I reflected on the great number of persons I had killed; and the more, when I considered they were in a right cause, and I defending a pack of thieves and robbers: my applauses were hateful to me under this consideration; and, I believe, if Alexander the Great had been an honest man, he would have had little satisfaction in all his victories.

If I was shocked at what I had done, what were my thoughts when I reflected on the consequences of it. I was engaged among a gang of pirates. To be hanged if I was taken; and if I was successful, to murder and rob numbers of the innocent. This thought was worse to me than the first. I was no longer in love with life: even the thought of seeing Miss Fortrey, could no longer make me wish for my preservation. How did I curse my folly, that had not listened to the advice of my friend in the dungeon, and how much happier I should have thought it to have been there, than where I was at present; how much better for my poor soul, that I had died at once there, without the crime of the murder of all these innocent persons.

These

These considerations made me melancholy ; but that did me no harm in the esteem of my companions : the Spaniards are naturally grave, and they did not think this particular. We sat down to our breakfast with good spirits on all parts but mine; and spent a good part of an idle day very jollily.

While we were boasting of our courage, our spirits were a little damped. We saw the face of the sea, toward the town, covered with boats ; they had known we could not get away in the calm, and they were come with tenfold force to attack us. They had one large open boat a-head, the biggest vessel they could fit out at that time ; and the rest followed. Any people less desperate than ourselves, would have given up all for lost ; but we heartened up one another. My companion and I gave them three huzza's in the English manner, and the rest joined us ; we stood to our arms, and my countryman firing his swivel guns four times, while they were at a distance, the last shot stove the boat, and put them into great confusion. They took the people into the other boats, and came on in an even front. My companion did some execution among them with his swivel guns, which he now loaded with musket shot ; we could only look on them as yet, for they were out of our reach ; but we could see they came determined : they never minded the loss of their men, and their resolution certainly was, without firing a gun, to row up and board us.

The

The Spaniard, who seemed to have most authority, if any could be said to have more than the rest, in our vessel, was employing himself and the rest in managing the sails. He was an old sailor, and he was right. They came so near, that we fired in our muskets twice, which they never minded; and, just as we gave all up for lost, a brisk gale came on. We owed our lives now to the Spaniard, as we had done before to myself; for we stood off to sea, and saw no more of them.

I reckon this attempt must have cost them very dear. Not that I suppose they suffered much by our shot; but the wind blew very fresh, and they were a great way from shore in their small craft. We saw no more of them.

CHAP. XII.

Unexpected and very perplexing disasters, and their consequences.

WE cruized some time in these seas, but with no success. What vessels we saw were of much larger burden than ourselves; and it was our business to keep out of the way of all inquiries; so we always sheered off as fast as we could, and none followed us.

This was a very alarming situation, however; for we had come away in a condition, though

though better than we expected, yet not victualled or watered for any long cruize. We had so little to say for ourselves, that we dreaded putting in at any port; as much as being examined at sea; and as our little provisions grew to the very bottom, we became desperate.

See to what guilt will reduce men in the most plentiful places. We could have obtained water from any ship that came by; or we could have got provisions for what valuable things we had on board, on any of the islands; but our crime in stealing the ship, and our want of proper papers of credit, made us as distressed in this situation, as if we had been in the midst of an ocean where no other vessel ever sailed; or upon a salt water island, destitute of all provision.

I now cursed my fate and folly more than ever: if I was weary of life before, I now hated it. And I thought so little of my uncle, or my mistress, that I cared not what became of me. So powerful is one thought to drive out another. In this condition our agony increased; and we all one morning sat down to a consultation, what should be our last resolve. We broke up, at the sight of a vessel at a distance; but it was again one of those we could not think to attack, for ours was a very weak one. We were obliged to leave our consultation, however, to get out of the way, and when we had done that, we sat down again.

It was an odd consultation, where we did not all speak one language: but there was something

something in the looks of the old Spaniard in particular, that was very terrible. He had in his hand seven pieces of rope, one of them shorter than the rest; and he said something that I found terrified them all. My companion explained it to me.

He told them, their hope was in meeting some vessel that they might attack, and which, being better than their own, might serve their purpose the better; and he added, this expectation, though they had so long held it in vain, might in one moment answer their purpose; however, says he, in the mean time we are all dying. It is my opinion, that it is better one of us should die, than all the company; and I advise that these lots may decide which. I do not desire to excuse myself for the chance: and if it should fall upon me, I shall not repine that I die to serve my friends.

I was the only person to whom this advice did not seem terrible. It was necessary that one of us should make himself food for the rest. They seemed to value life: and I thoroughly despised it. I desired my companion to tell them, that I would accept the chance myself, without putting it to the hazard of the lot. Let me do justice even to villains: not one of them looked up at the motion. Tears ran down every cheek, and they shook their heads in disapprobation.

I desired my countryman to interpret for me farther. I had least right to their regard. I was a stranger whom they received by chance, not one of the company; my life had been forfeited

forfeited already, and they saved it. They had a right to what they had themselves given me. I applied to my companion's knowledge, that he had found me in chains ; and I added to all this, that I was an unfortunate creature, who did not desire to live any longer : not that I could not bear our common misfortunes as well as themselves ; but I was indeed weighed down with other griefs they did not know of.

Thus can despair misguide our reason : thus did I think to atone for other crimes by self-murder. Never was such a scene as this ; they came to me one by one, embraced me, cried over me, kissed my neck, and sat down again. I understood that they agreed to my proposal : but they were only paying respect to my generosity. They sat down by themselves, and the old man held the lots, only one being thrown away. I saw they had resolved to spare me certainly, and had taken the common danger among themselves.

I stopped the decision, and desired my countryman to interpret for me only once more. Gentleman, said I, if one of us is to die, let us all die together ; but let us not die foolishly. Nothing can be worse than our present condition ; let us dare to attempt a better. What cannot men, resolved as we are, execute. Despair is more than strength. Let us, instead of this terrible sacrifice, which will serve only a few days, attack that large vessel. It is better we all die in attempting to relieve our wants, than murder one another.

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They all jumped up at once, and seemed to look upon me as more than man. The vessel was prepared for the chase; and the old Spaniard desired I would accept of the command. This I declined; but gave my advice, that we should make all the sail we could after her; and never think to fire a gun, that could be of no service against a vessel of such superior force, and so much better manned; but drive close along side, and board her at once, making our necessity our courage.

We set off upon this desperate enterprize, and soon came in sight of the vessel. We pursued her, and she saw it. They kept on their way, without minding us, and fired a single gun, I suppose without ball. It was about four in the afternoon when we came up with her, and we had eat nothing, and scarce drank for two days.

Our vessel being light, and crouded with sail, we came on at a much brisker rate than the other, which was only pursuing her proper course. It is plain that the company were surprized at us; they were all upon deck armed; but not a man fired a gun, any more than we. They were enough to have eat us up for a breakfast; but despair carried us to every thing; we ran foul of her along side, and in the shock we were all to have boarded her: but it was the work of an instant. Only the old Spaniard and myself got up the side of the ship, and he fell off into the sea. I never regarded whether any one was behind me, but, negligent of life, and resolute in the

the attempt I had proposed, I ascended the side, cutlafs in hand, and boarded her amidst a croud of the crew, who all stood armed upon the spot. I heard an English voice call out, take him alive; don't hurt him, I charge you. They closed about me, and, taking my weapon out of my hand, led me to their captain.

Mean time our vessel had tacked about: the old Spaniard, who swam well, was taken up; and our people were pouring in first their swivel guns, and then their small arms, as fast as they could. The crew were ordered not to fire upon them: and the captain, who was a Spaniard, was ordering me into irons. The English voice I had heard, was that of an officer of the kingdom of Ireland; for the Irish are greatly esteemed in Spain, both as soldiers and sailors. He came down, and looking upon the miserable condition I was in, almost naked, and famished, asked me with what intent we had attacked them?

I answered him, for food; we had not tasted any thing for many days, and were upon the point of eating one another. Poor creatures, replied he; and, speaking to the captain in Spanish, he immediately returned me his answer, that we should have provisions and water, as much as we needed.

All this time our desperate little company were firing in upon the crew, not with any hope of advantage, but in desperation and revenge. I begged leave to go on deck and shew myself, to quiet them: I held up the officer's white handkerchief, by way of flag; and

and on sight of me, they set up a shout, such as their feeble condition could permit, and ceased hostilities.

There was beef, and some other provision just taken out of the pot in the cook-room; I begged it, and it was granted readily: a boat was instantly put off, and I returned to them with a plentiful quantity of food, water, and spirits. They received me like a messenger from Heaven. Good God, what a scene! men who had scarce had sight of any thing that deserved to be called food or drink, for many weeks. How did they eat and drink, and bless themselves, and me, and their good fortune?

I tasted a little with them, and returned to the ship. I told a good round story; that we were from the Havannah; that some villains having run away with a ship, we were sent out after them; and having lost our compass, and being no great sailors, we had wandered about these seas for some time, and were now so desperate, that they need wonder at nothing we had attempted.

My story was readily credited, and the captain supplied us. He gave us a compass, and provisions for a month; and some other necessaries; and the Irish officer, desiring to know my name, which I freely told him, gave me two suits of his own clothes, and some other necessaries. After which, extolling my courage, and comparing it to that of Alexander, when he leaped the walls alone; only that he said mine was greater: he tenderly took leave of me, and they proceeded on their voyage.

C H A P. XIII.

The author pleads a very honest cause, and not without success.

FOR our parts, we had been so long unacquainted with food, drink, or any convenience of life, that we were like creatures mad with joy. We thought of nothing but indulgence, and let the vessel go whither it would, for we had no port to make; and it was all one to us, whether we were in one part of the ocean or another. Men never know the value of ease, but after they have been in pain; they never know what is the true taste of happiness, but when they have been miserable. There was nothing in our present condition to be set so very high, but to us it was as heaven. To eat and drink, and enjoy the sun's light, do not appear to other people such great blessings; but to us, who had suffered so terribly, they were transporting. We wantoned in idleness, and gave ourselves no thought of a future moment, that might disturb the peace of the present.

At this time our carelessness threw us into the way of what all our assiduity before had sought in vain. At day-break one morning, we were hailed by a little English vessel: we brought to, and boarded her. They had spoke in friendship, and were in no condition to resist us, as few as we were. We entered without opposition; and the crew, seeing

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what we were, threw themselves upon their knees.

The Spaniards were for throwing them over-board; and when I pleaded for mercy, my countryman told me, that mercy to them, was destruction to ourselves: that they would describe our vessel at the next port, and we should be stigmatized and taken. He was not for needless cruelty; but self-preservation made this necessary.

The rest joined with him; but I pleaded very hard. I begged for them, as they were my countrymen; and I engaged for their silence. I took an oath from them, that they should say they were boarded in the night, so saw nothing; and their lives were spared. We stripped the vessel of all that was valuable; and leaving them a month's provisions, took the rest to our own use, and dismissed them.

I bade one of the Englishmen, if he ever saw London again, to enquire out Mr. Henry Morris, and tell him that his nephew was forced among a gang of pirates; but that he saved his life, and that of the whole crew: that he prayed hourly to be delivered from his present terrible situation; but dared not attempt it till a safe opportunity; and that he had no thoughts or wishes, but to pay his duty to him, and to see his wife.

As I said this, I shed some tears, and parted very unwillingly from my countrymen. If I had attempted to go with them, I doubt not but our desperate crew would have murdered all of us. I thought I had found an opportunity
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when I was on board the other ship, where there was an English officer; but the crew were Spanish, and he a Spaniard, though of Irish parents. I dreaded to trust myself with them; for I had seen too much of Spanish cruelty; and I knew what must have been my fate, if, touching at Cuba, (which was very probable) I should have been discovered to be a slave, who had broke prison, and one of the pirates that ran away with the vessel.

One crime, I believe, often draws on another: with me, one folly drew on a thousand crimes; nor do I see how it was possible for me to have avoided them. I set down the lives of my countrymen whom I had saved, against the murders I had committed; but they were not enough to balance the account; even though I added in my favour, the merit of the one, as a voluntary act, and the necessity of the other.

I cannot deny but that I in some degree shared in the pleasures of our present indulgence, after our fatigues and misery; but I resolved to quit the society as soon as it should be possible; and I was in pain enough every time that I reflected, in the mean while, that we were in an act, which was death by the laws of all nations; and that we were no moment secure against the sentence.

We loitered about these seas several weeks, and nothing came in our way that we thought proper to attack. We wanted a fitter vessel for our purposes; and were determined to quit our own, as soon as we should make prize of such a one; but hitherto we had in

vain expected the opportunity: we saw many vessels, which it would have been madness for us to attack; and those which we were able to master, were so little better than our own, that we almost despaired of the advantage.



THE
T R A V E L S
OF
Mr. DRAKE MORRIS, MERCHANT.

BOOK II.

Containing what happened to him on the
island of Tortuga.

CHAP. I.

*The intent of the crew making for the island of
Tortuga; and their first success.*

PEOPLE of the dispositions of our company, though they could indulge with transport after distress, were not of the nature of those who could make a life of idleness. We grew weary of inaction; and a council was called, to know what we had best do. In these things I had no share, for I yet knew very little of their language; and the little they had learned of the English, hearing me and my countryman talk, served, like what I had got of the Spanish, from their conversation,

tion, rather to perplex and puzzle things by misunderstanding, than to be of any real advantage.

My companion imparted to me their resolution; which was, to lay wait on shore, for what they found it in vain to expect on the sea. They determined to make their way for Tortuga, a little island off the coast of Hispaniola, and in possession of the French. In this island there was, they told me, but one port, and vessels often put in. One of the Spaniards, who said he knew the country very well, proposed our hiding ourselves in some woods (so I was told the story) till some such vessel should put in; and then to seize her, and set out upon a new expedition, with better advantages.

The real story, as I afterwards found, was this: This Spaniard was intimately acquainted with a Frenchman who lived in this part of the island, of the name of Benoit. He had a large plantation, and a considerable number of slaves upon it. Himself, his wife, and a sister, and three sons, were all the family. The real scheme was to murder these in the night, seize upon the house, and support themselves there till some ship should come in: then to invite the crew to our plantation; destroy them, and take possession of the vessel. We were then to take with us a sufficient number of the stoutest and most trusty slaves, and cruize to more purpose.

Such was the scheme laid by this desperate crew: my companion was enjoined not to tell me of it; and the old Spaniard had like
to

to have lost his life for opposing it. I saw what they proposed displeased him; but I thought it was only from its rashness; for I had a great opinion of his prudence, and I was not yet enough in love with life, to find fault with danger.

We set sail for Tortuga, and after about eight days, came within sight of the island. We kept aloof till the evening came on, and then made for the harbour. We cleared every thing pretty favourably for some time; but at length the night being dark, and the road difficult, we struck upon a rock. I believe we might have got the vessel off; but the leader of this enterprize bade us not mind it. He said, he designed to sink her as soon as we got into port, for she was an unlucky and good for nothing ship. We took, according to his advice, each his cutlass, and throwing ourselves into the sea, got ashore without much difficulty.

It was now early in the night, and we had not a great way to march. The conductor of the enterprize made a speech, which my countryman interpreted to me, though not truly, that we should soon arrive at the plantation, and he was certain we should meet with a most friendly reception. We at length arrived, and our conductor led us up to the door of the house.

One of the others knocked, while he stood at a distance to answer when they should call from the window. I heard an old man's voice ask in French, of which I understood a little, who was there? and on our conductor's telling

him his name, I heard the old man answer, how glad he was to see him.

I thought we were all right now, and blessed thus far my good fortune. Alas, my pleasures were to last but a moment: how should it be otherwise, while I was associated with such wretches. The old man opened the door, with a light; and what should be the first object that presented itself, but his friend's cutlass at his throat. He fell without a groan, and the murderer beckoned to us to follow him. Upon the stairs we met one of his sons, whom he of our company that was next, dispatched; and then taking the light, we went into every room of the house, and killed all we found.

I had no hand in these murders; but my heart accused me of being accessory, and I could have mixed my blood with theirs, had not some faint hope still risen within me, of some time seeing my country and my friends. This alone preserved me. I thank heaven it has been accomplished. Had it not been for this, I had perished many times by my own hand, in the distresses in which we were involved; and in our cruelties: for I could no more bear the one, than I could the other.

We dug a hole near the house, and threw in all the bodies: we covered them up with earth; and as well as we could, put the house in order. The remainder of the night we spent in drying ourselves by a good fire, dressing ourselves in what clothes we found in the house, and eating and drinking.

In the morning, some of the slaves came for their orders, and our leader, who spoke very

very good French, of which the slaves understood somewhat, bade them go on as they did the day before. He made up a plausible story to a white servant, that, having lain out of the house, escaped the slaughter of the family, telling him, Mr. Benoit and his whole family were gone early for Guanabo, another island on the coast, and would be back after some settled time; and the fellow, seeing all quiet, believed him.

Upon recollection, however, he did not think it safe to trust this person, and took an opportunity, an hour or two after, to dispatch him. When we looked after our vessel, which we did about noon, we saw only the top of the mainmast; and two of the company taking the boat, when it was low water, and carrying with them a saw from the plantation, cut it off at the waters edge that it might not terrify any other vessel from attempting the port.

The slaves went on very well, and we found money, all sorts of convenience, and plenty of every thing. I advised, that we should settle ourselves here, and be content. We were safe and easy, and had every thing comfortable about us; and I said, it was much better than exposing our lives every moment.

They were not people to be contented in this manner; neither did I indeed altogether mean what I said: my hope was to see my native country, and not to pass my life in a strange place among such a band of robbers. However, what I proposed to myself, was, to remain here out of way of more crimes; and to watch the opportunity of some vessel, that

might carry me to my own home. In the mean time I concluded, that my seeming to be so well satisfied with my condition, would take away from them all suspicions of my intending to leave them; which I had always foreseen would be fatal to me.

They heard my advice, and they laughed at me for a half-strain pirate. Thus we understood one another by the help of our interpreter: they told me, these were the woods in which they intended to lie in wait till some vessel came in; and they communicated to me their plan, of making the house the scene of a second slaughter. This, they told me, was talking like men; and they were surprized that a fellow so brave as I was, should think of sitting down in quiet among a parcel of negroes; or think much of cutting another's throat, when it was to my own advantage.

These were their morals: and I had wondered that they had not long before destroyed one another; but I now perceived that they would be too few for any enterprize, if but one were cut off: and so I found myself safe among them; and they, severally from one another, upon the principle of common interest; the only principle that could hold them together.

C H A P. II.

*A very unexpected attack upon the new settlement,
and its consequence.*

WE had been a fortnight in possession of our bloody inheritance, and had settled every thing peaceably and unsuspectedly about us; when I saw, one night, from my window, a light, at the distance of about a mile. It was not a time for the slaves to be up; and there was no other plantation near us. The guilty always fear. I roused my companions; and none of us knew what to make of it. We fancied, at length, that it must be a mutiny among the slaves, and we determined to treat them as they deserved. They had no fire-arms: so we knew we had nothing to fear: but we determined to make a slaughter amongst them, though to our own disadvantage. We did not intend to remain upon the plantation; so it was no matter to us what became of the crop. We loaded what fire-arms there were in the house, and stood together in a large upper window, that faced where the light was.

All this time the light kept steady, and we could distinguish nothing but a blaze; at length we saw it break into several parts, and those separate to considerable distances. We saw now, that there were several torches and could distinguish that there were a number of persons. This confirmed us in our opinion, and we determined upon our

conduct; which was, to let them advance within certain shot, and then fire upon them as fast as possible.

They advanced as we expected, and we kept our post. On a sudden all the lights were extinguished, and nothing was to be seen. We could at this time, however, hear them coming nearer and nearer. Our lights shewed us very distinctly to them; while the darkness intirely hid them from us: we determined to let them come very near, that we might lose no shot: but, on taking up our arms to prepare for the first discharge, we received a full volley from fire-arms of different kinds, which laid four of our number dead upon the floor.

It was plain enough now, we were mistaken about our enemies. Had they reserved a part of their charges for a second fire, the rest of us had perished by it; but they ran in directly upon us. We who were left alive, escaped as we could, out of the back windows: we did not keep together. For my part, I hid myself behind some old buildings, and soon saw the rooms filled with people, who searched every part of it. My dead companions were thrown out of the window like dogs; and, after searching the house, they came down into the offices. I did not think myself safe, where I was. I had the night to assist me in my escape; but whither I should go, I knew not.

In this extremity, all I could recollect, was, that my business was to be near the sea. It was millions to one against any ship's coming near; but if any should, that was my hope;
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for I could expect nothing but destruction among a company of savages for so all now appeared to me to be on this place.

I wandered all night in the direction I thought lay toward the sea ; but as morning dawned, I could distinguish nothing of it ; nor see any thing, except an uncultivated country, with a plantation at a distance. That I dared not approach ; for I dreaded all as my enemies ; not knowing who in reality they were that attacked us, I hid myself, as day rose upon me, among the bushes, and expected every foot that I heard, if but that of a weasel, that some one was coming to destroy me. If the wind waved but a bough near me, I gave myself up for lost ; and I was ready to faint at the motion of a shadow, cast by some shrub upon the ground, and trembling with the air.

Oh what I suffered ! O how I reproached my folly ! I had time to reflect upon all my life, and, what reflections ! No man knows what he is doing, when he commits the first offence against reason and duty. My ingratitude to my uncle, was the first folly that started up against me ; and the last, was my not listening to the advice of my fellow prisoner at Cuba. The rest though very terrible, I could solve to myself as coming from necessity ; for I could not avoid all the murders I had committed ; but this was obstinacy ; it was voluntary, and against the best reason. How often did I now wish to be plunged again into our dungeon. There was some hope, as my friendly counsellor had well advised me ; here was none. Or, if I were
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sure to die there, it was much better to have died innocent, than perish with hunger here, or else by some unpitying hand, if I should be seen, with all these late crimes upon my soul.

Such were the reflections in which I passed the first miserable day; deprived of all hope, and separated from my companions; by death from the greatest part, and from the few surviving by accident: these, bad as they were, were still a relief to my despairing spirits. Nothing is so terrible to the human soul, as affliction in solitude. How happy might I have been in England, in the affection of my friend, and the respect of my acquaintance, only one imprudent expectation was to be resigned: now the meanest of the creatures that beg about the streets, enjoyed a state, which to mine, was paradise.

I passed the first day in all the agonies of terror, and without food or drink. I cast my eye toward where I thought the sea lay, my only and my distant hope, and I marked the trees by which I could direct my course. As soon as night fell, I went forward. I traveled the whole dark time without coming to a plantation, or any thing that had the look of belonging to mankind. As it grew day, I sought a proper retreat, and hid myself as usual; but still I saw nothing of the sea.

Toward afternoon I grew faint; hunger, fatigue, and misery, preyed altogether upon my spirits: I looked about me, and saw a fair tree loaded with fruit, that I did not know
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the shape of, nor had ever seen before. Oh! the condition of a wretch like me! I was perishing with hunger. If I went out to gather them, some one might see me, and whoever did, would doubtless kill me; and even if I escaped this, the fruit itself might be poison. I had heard of many that were so in this part of the world.

I trembled, and feared; but hunger, and the sight of food before me, prevailed over all other considerations. I crawled out of my hiding place, and seeing no body near, I got up into the tree. I examined the fruit; it was large and beautiful, and I found the birds had pecked it in some places; upon this I ventured. It was delicious and nourishing. I found it supply the call of thirst and hunger both; and I could have lived and died upon the spot where it grew. Such were my first considerations.

After eating a considerable quantity, I shook down more, and descending from the tree, carried it with me to my hiding-place. In this manner I lived five weeks, feeding upon the fruits of this delicious tree, and sheltering under one or other thicket every day. It was the life of a beast, solitary, and full of terror; but I so much dreaded an human face in this country, that the greatest comfort of my life was, I never saw or heard any thing that had the appearance of there having been such a creature there. I hear since, that Tortuga is now a well cultivated island; but a great part of it was plainly desert when I was there.

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I had almost reconciled myself to this life of a wild beast, for to be sure it was nothing better, nor had I hope of any thing better. The sea I no longer thought of; for the prospect of ever getting relief that way, seemed very uncertain; and my fears now represented it to me as hazardous, even if a ship should come, as they would naturally deliver me up to the people of the island: my few companions, who survived the fire of the enemy, I had seen nothing of, so that I doubted not but they were caught and destroyed, or had perished in the woods; and the face of the people I dreaded. What remained for me then, but to submit to the hardship of my fate; to waste the remainder of my days on this spot, praying to heaven to forgive my many crimes, and resigning all other hope, but in a happy eternity.

Alas, we know nothing of what we shall do, or to what we are reserved: when I had in a manner reconciled myself to contentment with my present condition, had found a little place of water not far off my retreat, and had fenced and guarded my lodging within-side, and had ventured to eat some large snails, and other animals that crawled about the trees and bushes, the fruit upon the tree, which had been my greatest support, began to decay. When the accident was begun, it soon grew worse. Every day increased the desolation: the ground was covered with fallings, which soon decayed; and, in a week, nothing was left but the beautiful large leaves, which began also to wither.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

The author is forced to venture on a new sort of food, and the effects of it.

NOW I was plunged in distress more deeply than ever. What was I to do? nothing but famine was before me; for I could not live on the insects and water alone. With my despair, my thoughts of a possibility of an escape grew up. I resolved to change my place; and in searching some other tree; which should supply me like the first, if such a one could be found, to bend my course also toward what I took to be the shore.

I took the advantage of a moon-light night, and set out. It cost me some tears to part with my old habitation; so natural will even the meanest things grow by custom. I felt sick at my heart, and wished to die. I could have resigned myself into the hands of the people of the place with pleasure. I knew not where to find their habitations, or, I believe, despair would have sent me thither with that intent. I traveled, as I had done before, by the guidance of the stars, and I went on slowly the whole night. Toward day I rested, and fed upon what insects I found, that seemed any thing less than poison; and the young shoots of the bushes I eat, which served by their juiciness instead of drink.

At night I went on again, still pursuing the same course, and in the same manner,
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for four days, after resting all day-light, and eating any thing; for I was bold enough to taste now of every thing, and traveling all the night. As day broke, on the last of these journeys, I saw a spacious and white plain before me. A few minutes convinced me that it was the sea; and I fell upon my knees, though I scarce knew for what, to Heaven. In all this time I had seen no tree in a better condition than that I had left; all were dropping their leaves, except such as retained them all the year; and the ground under them was strewed with decayed fruit.

I walked forward, though it was day, toward the shore; and I saw upon it part of the masts of our vessel, though dashed strangely to pieces. I knew therefore that I was not far from the port we had come in; and I heard them say there was no other upon the island; so that I was now, if I could find subsistence, in the way of throwing myself upon the mercy of some strangers. The hazard was great; but still the hope was something. I sought about for a hiding-place; but bushes were less frequent. I with difficulty found a little thicket, and I rested under it. I was reduced to eat the bark of the shrubs; and I had no water. The looking upon the sea made me more thirsty; and yet this could not be tasted as drink.

No man knows what he can bear, till he is tried: good God! what I had now suffered, and what was before me! Shut out from the society of all human creatures; and feeding like a beast upon the herbs of the ground;
yet

yet I went on, and prepared myself to bear even more. I never would quit sight of the sea; but I found food, even of this miserable kind, very scarce, near it. On the eighth day, as I was stripping off the bark of some stems of a little shrub, which I had not seen before in the country, and which seemed very juicy, I saw the print of a man's foot upon the ground.

Good heaven; what was the agitation of my heart? first I trembled and feared. But the same courage which had grown upon my not seeing any of the natives for a great while, and which had made me venture out in daylight, tempted me to follow the track. The foot was naked too, that I could see by the mark. To what or to whom could it belong? I followed the marks, which I sometimes lost, sometimes found again, directly to the sea shore. It was easy to pursue it along the sand of the shore; and I went on trembling, and eating of my new food, without regarding the taste.

After many windings, I came to a hollow rock, that over-hung the water in one part, but ran far back in another. The brambles, and other straggling weeds, hung over the front of it, which looked toward the sea; and it was all solid stone. On the opposite side, in one corner, which was very warm, and surrounded every way with rock, as if it had been a building, I found a quantity of dry weeds laid together by way of bed, and near it there stood some fresh water in the shell

shell of a hard fruit, and a piece of somewhat that looked like bread.

I eat and drank, and had strange thoughts in my head: but all was a strange confusion. I found I had swallowed poison. Not the cake I met with in this place; but the bark, which I had never tasted before. I threw it from my hand, and cursed my hard fate; that had kept me so long upon the island, without the sight of any human creature; and now I come into the abode of one almost as wretched as myself I must die before I saw him. However I resigned all. I had no occasion to dread death, when being was so miserable. I grew more giddy, and I grew sick at my stomach. I gave up all, and laid myself down upon the bed of weeds, praying God to have mercy upon my crimes, into the most of which I had been compelled by necessity.

C H A P. IV.

The author awakes, as from a trance, and finds himself in the company of an old friend.

I KNOW not how long I lay in this condition; the coming of which I had taken to be the sure approach of death; but when I came to myself, the first object that presented itself to my eyes, was a poor old man weeping over me. I knew nothing where I was, nor remembered any circumstance of what I had

had seen before. I fixed my eyes upon the poor creature; who seemed surprized, as well as cheered, to see me open them; for he had also thought me to be dead.

His beard was grown down to his breast, and was grey. His hair was grey and shocky, and his eye-brows grew together, hanging in long hairs over his eyes: his face seemed only a skull, covered with a yellow skin. The rag he had about him was fastened with thorns; and for the rest, he was naked.

I never had so true or so terrible a sense of my own condition, as on the sight of him. He took me by the hand and kissed it. He gave me water, and brought me a shell-fish from the outside of the rock. The tears run down my cheeks, as I relate this kindness. The taste of the last morsel was new to me; it revived me; and I fell upon my knees to him. In taking me up, he spoke, and I knew it to be the old Spaniard. I threw my arms about his neck, and wept upon him. We were silent some time. Nor indeed could we, at the best, make much use of words, as we knew but very imperfectly one another's language.

He had known me from the first, and thought me dead, when he found me lying upon his bed. He had always loved me for my courage, and for my merciful disposition; for though by trade a murderer, he was less cruel than the others.

I thought myself happy. The sea was calm before us, and the sun setting upon it, shone in among the boughs that hung over the
the

the rocky edge. My friend set out his little supper, which to me was a repast more delicious than any I had tasted. He ran to a spring he had discovered, and brought his shell full of pure water; he produced some more of his cakes, which he made out of a root that grew in the sand; and he set out several other roots, and two or three sorts of shell-fish, and some berries, on which we fed deliciously.

Oh how I despised myself. I had the same opportunities, and I fed like an ox or sheep. He had employed the sense of an human creature, and had found many other kinds of food. We talked together as well as we could. By my knowing some of his language, and he some of mine, we held a sort of correspondence together. After we had done eating, and the sun was set an hour, we had no light, and we retired to bed.

In the morning, he took me to his spring, and he shewed me where he found his roots, and shell-fish. He signified to me, that I need not fear walking about, for in all the time he had been there, he had never seen one of the people.

He had known me from the first, and thought me good, when he found me lying upon his back. He had always loved me for my courage, and for my merciful disposition; for though by trade a hunter, he was less cruel than the others.

I thought myself happy. The sea was calm before us, and the sun shining upon it, gave us a pleasant sight. I was over-joyed.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of the condition of the author's companion.

AS we had few subjects for conversation, the lot naturally fell upon what had happened since we parted; and though we understood one another very imperfectly, yet all our attention being employed upon understanding one another, we made a swift progress. We were in a few days able to talk intelligibly together; and I learned from him what became of our companion, who had accompanied him in his flight. They travelled all night together, as I had done, though on a different rout, and were, early in the morning, lead near the sea. The port was before them; and the other was earnest to seek after some vessel belonging to the people, in which he might coast the island at least, and fix upon the best spot; and, if occasion offered, plunder some little family, at a distance from the larger plantations.

He found a boat; but he had scarce got into it, when he perceived he was seen: he was putting off against the wind; but he was shot from on shore. The people who had destroyed him, pulled the boat on land, and beat it to pieces, as he supposed, to prevent the possibility of an escape, if any more of us should have been upon the island.

The old Spaniard lay quiet all day, and at night traveled along the shore; this he repeated three serene fine nights, till he found
this

this safe retreat; where he was yet in sight of the port, and free from danger.

Here he had lived all the time; I had been dragging on a miserable and solitary life, in another part of the island. We were now much happier than in that solitude; and I happier, because I enjoyed, by his assistance, the necessaries of life in a much better manner, than I had been able to provide them for myself. But still we were in very little hope of getting off the island. None but French vessels had put into the port; and to them the Spaniard had never dared to apply; not questioning but they would have given him up to the people, and that he should have suffered death with torture. Other vessels he had seen pass at a distance; at least he supposed them to belong to other nations, by their not touching here; and he had constantly hung out to them a flag, made of the white inner bark of trees, which hung upon a pole; but none had regarded it. Had it been upon a desolate or uninhabited island, he observed, they would certainly have sent a boat to take them up; but as it was inhabited, they had no notion of such a signal.

Upon the whole, the old man, who had made a philosophy out of patience, told me, we were to content ourselves with the lives we lived; till some chance offered, that should have a prospect of relieving us. If there were but the least hope of it, he said, he should not be against applying, at all hazards; but he could not think of giving himself up at once to the enemy, and to certain death.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

An unexpected misfortune befalls the author, and the event of it.

THE old man's reasons had weight with me, and I determined to abide by his opinion. We lived between six or seven months longer on this desolate spot, happier than any men, but those who had suffered what we had, could imagine. We conversed perfectly in either language; and if I revered him as a father, he loved me as a son. I had brought him to a thorough sense of the wickedness of his past life; and having acquainted him with my own situation, and the kindness of my uncle, I had persuaded him, if any opportunity offered, to go with me to England, and spend the remainder of his days with me: In which these terrible misfortunes, while we related them to others, would endear us, by the remembrance, more and more to one another.

I had flattered myself with this hope, till I made no question of seeing it completed. Alas, my companion fell sick. I was grieved as if he had been my father. I took all the care that it was possible of him; but, what could be done for the sick, in a place where even health could scarce find wherewithal to support nature. Here were no medicines; no relief was to be administered, but what a careful attendance could give. I watched him night as well as day, and I was overwhelmed

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with

with melancholy thoughts. The finding him had been the greatest comfort I ever knew in my affliction: to loose him now must have been insupportable. It would have been impossible for me to have lived there without him; and even in my hopes of returning to my own country, the thought of having him with me, was no little consideration.

You who have gone through so many dangers, and so many difficulties with me; thus I used to lament over him; will you leave me now? now that the worst, I hope, are past, and we had only to enjoy one another's friendship and conversation here, till some opportunity offered, of our going to my home together; will you forsake me now? He could only lift up his eyes, but they overflowed with tenderness and gratitude. For eight days his distemper grew continually worse; but on the eighth, I thought him dead for some moments. This was the turn of his disorder, the struggle between the disease and nature. Nature got the better, and from that time his disorder mended.

Oh what gratitude the old generous heart declared, for my watchfulness over him: how did he embrace me, and swear that no fortune should separate us. He grew sensible of the crimes of his past life. He prayed heartily for forgiveness; and he said, even if any thing should have happened to prevent my providing for him, when he came to England, he would work at the hardest employment, rather than think of taking to his wretched course again.

They

They call sickness an affliction; but I believe it frequently has this good effect; and it is then the happiest thing that can befall a man. We strengthened one another in our resolutions of virtue, and we daily, at evening and morning paid our devotions. He was of a different communion from mine, but people of this stamp have little regard for religion. He joined with me heartily in my prayers; and I flattered myself that Heaven would not delay much longer our deliverance.

One morning, as we were offering up our devotions on the beach, we espied a small ship. As it approached, we viewed it very closely. It put into the port; and, to my inexpressible transport, I could perceive it ~~was~~ an English vessel. I now returned thanks to Heaven. I proposed, at all adventures, to make for the port, and my companion, though he knew the hazard, made no scruple to join me.

We set out immediately; and my companion held it beyond what I could have expected: we rested at times: at length we saw a boat put off, with three or four men in it, and go on shore. Now friend, said I, now is our time. Let us reach the port before they put off again, and all is safe. He did his best, and we approached nearly to the place; but he could hold no longer: his age and sickness had spent him so, that the fatigue was too much. He saw the advantage we had before us, and he cried bitterly: he desired me to go alone, and not let his misfortunes ruin me. I refused to do this, and

we both sat down together. There was a bog between us and the place, and it was impossible he should get through it. I made the proposal of carrying him upon my back, and he accepted it with tears. I took up the load with joy, and ran briskly over the bog. We approached the port, and we had sight of the boat, which was still at the shore. We are happy, my dear friend, said I, my countrymen are got on shore, and all will be well. I had scarce spoke, when I heard the report of two or three muskets. I perceived myself unhurt; but, alas! my companion, my dear friend, fell from off my shoulders. As I turned, four men were running upon me; but the ground was a little boggy between. My companion was expiring. I neither could defend him, nor would it have served any purpose. The murderers were behind me; the ship before me. I run from them. Fear gave me swiftness, greater than even revenge gave them, I kept before them, and I threw myself into the sea.

They had not stopped the pursuit to load their guns again; but now they were on the shore, they had time. I swam well; but it was a terrible chance to get away from the fire of three or four muskets, and this with my clothes on. I made toward the ship as fast as I could, but it was at a distance. I turned my head back several times, and had the agony to see them load their pieces. Good God! that an innocent person, as I was, should be thus pursued like a wild beast, to be killed without hearing. They attempted

to

to fire, but all missed. They had helped themselves over the bog with their guns, with the but-end downwards, and all was wet ; so that they did not go off. I thanked God, and redoubled my diligence : they took pains to make every thing dry, and they attacked me again. One went off, and the bullet fell near me in the water. The ship's company saw this, and they came on deck with their pieces loaded. Now I gave myself up for lost : indeed it was in vain I escaped those on shore ; every stroke that carried me farther from them, brought me so much nearer the people on board. I had no chance but to keep between both, and support myself till night, when I should get on shore again, and retire to my cave : though the sight of that, without my companion, must be as death to me.

O Heaven ! that those to whom I was flying for shelter, should arm themselves to destroy me ; yet it was natural, when they saw the people of the place treat me like an outlaw. I prayed to God for wisdom to direct me, what course to take ; and I resolved upon the best. I called out in English to the crew of the vessel ; and they heard me. They seemed surprized to hear their own language, and they called up the master to answer me. He said very loud, Who are you ? I answered an innocent poor creature. Pray take me up, and do what you please with me afterwards. I have no arms ; I cannot hurt you. On this, he bid me come near ; and they took me in, after a few minutes.

THE
T R A V E L S

OF

Mr. DRAKE MORRIS, MERCHANT.;

BOOK III.

Containing the author's deliverance from the
island of Tortuga; and his misfortunes
on the seas.

CHAP. I.

*A very unexpected, and very happy meeting, of a
former acquaintance.*

I DO not know how I supported myself all this time in the water; but as soon as I was taken up, I sunk upon the deck, and lay as dead: they gave me the sea cordial, a glass of gin, and, by degrees, brought me to myself. The captain then asked me, how I came upon the island; and what I had done that they shot at me from the shore.

I gave him the history of my own life, from the hour of my being run away with
by

by captain Tanner; and I, at the same time, related to him the kindness of my uncle, and all that had befallen me in my younger days. They heard me with a great deal of patience; but one of them said, it was well if it were true: he told them, I had put it handsomely together; but he did not believe one word of it.

It is strange how easily the minds of men are turned, when they are in uncertainty. The company had all of them, except this person, shed tears at my relation; but they now wavered, and began to look upon me as an impostor. They had never heard of such a person as Mr. Henry Morris, in Bishopsgate-street; and they observed I gave no proofs of any thing I said. Alas! how should I, after so much time, and so many accidents. But this they did not consider.

While they were thus in debate about me, came off the boat that had been sent on shore. They had sent four men in it; but only two of them came back, and two Frenchmen along with them, who demanded me as a pirate and a murderer; and told the captain, the other two men were detained as sureties.

This was an English vessel, that had put in at Tortuga, for water, in great distress; and had already too long delayed its voyage. The governor lived at a distance from the first plantation; and they had detained the men, till they sent up to know his pleasure. The French and English were but upon very indifferent terms at this time, especially in this

part of the world; and the captain did not think fit to exasperate them; and was afraid of delaying the voyage longer: he told them, he knew nothing at all of me; that I swam by chance to the vessel, and if I had done any thing, I must answer it. If they should send back the two men, they should have me with them. At the same time, the person who had first set them against me, added he believed me to be no better than a rogue; I had cooked up a fine story of one Mr. Henry Morris, of London, but no body there ever heard of such a person, and he was glad I had met with my desert.

See how providence saves the innocent; and how good actions bring their reward along with them. One of the two men that were come back with the boat, upon hearing the name of Henry Morris, came up to me, and asked me if I knew him. Who should this be, but one of the crew of the English vessel we had so long before plundered, when I begged the lives of the people: and this was the very person I had commissioned to speak to my uncle.

He had been in London since, and he was now come on board another vessel: but he had gone to my uncle, according to my desire. He assured them, all was very true that I had told them; and added that I had saved his life, and all the rest of the crew of the vessel, when they had fallen into the hands of pirates, who had forced me among them. This gained some credit; and he promised soon to confirm it all; he told me, my uncle cried
very

very much when he spoke to him; and added, you shall see now how he loves you.

Upon this, he went down to his chest, and brought up a letter from my uncle to me, which he had commissioned him to deliver, if ever he should happen to find me again. It was in the most affectionate terms that could be conceived; and there was inclosed a bill of credit to the amount of two thousand pounds, or any farther sum I should have occasion for. This was authenticated by his banker, to the sum of twelve thousand pounds: and, in the same paper, my uncle had promised one hundred pounds to the man, if by his means I ever got my liberty; and five hundred pounds to any captain who should bring me over.

This could not be disputed, because the man could not have expected to meet with any such accident as this: if my uncle's name was not known, the banker's was very well, and the captain knew even his hand, for his own money was lodged with him. The five hundred pounds worked with him, that he intirely believed it all; and the person who had been so unfavourable in his conjecture, asked my pardon. I found he was a very honest man, only too hasty and suspicious.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

A proposal is made to the author; to which he readily agrees.

ALTHOUGH I had settled it so well with the ship's crew, there was a great deal yet to be done. The Frenchmen understood very little of this matter: and the captain did not think fit to let them into it altogether. He consented the two men should be kept till I was produced; and sent a message, by one of his men, to the governor, that he would wait upon him in the morning, on a piece of very important business.

The captain of this little vessel, was a man who knew the world much better than I expected: he was not a bad man at heart; but his own interest had great weight with him. When the Frenchmen were gone off, and all was quiet, he took me down into the cabin: and locking the door, talked to me to this purpose:

He told me, that if he had not taken me in, I must have been shot or drowned; he said, that my life was quite at his disposal; for, having confessed myself a pirate, and been known to be such, no plea could save me. He also told me, that at present he ought to lay me in irons; and, that prudence directed his giving me up in the morning to their direction; for that he could not answer to his owners the delay of his voyage.

Having

Having set all this before me, he asked me, if I had a right sense of my condition. I told him, I had, truly. He asked me, what I thought of my obligations to him. I answered that I should always be ready to acknowledge that I owed my life to him. Well then, says he, if you will give me a draught of fifteen hundred pounds upon the banker, and lodge the paper in my hands for security, I will risque the displeasure of my owners, and undertake to serve you.

I readily complied, and the draught was made out immediately. When he had done this, he told me, it was well I had so large a power, for I should want to make more use of it. These governors are all beggars, said he, and you must buy your life of him. They will convict you, upon evidence, you may depend; but if he stands your friend, you are safe. Give me a draught in his favour of one thousand guineas, and I will manage the matter.

I thanked God I had found a friend, though a mercenary one, who knew so well how to manage the matter, and I most thankfully agreed to all. In the morning he went off with two men, leaving me on board, with strict orders to defend me, if I should be attacked, at any rate.

C H A P. III.

*The author's cause heard, and the determinations
of the court thereon.*

THE captain, who had charged himself with my affairs, knew the nature of the people he had to deal with. He found, the governor of the island was a beggar, of a noble family; and he knew the respect they paid to blood in that country.

He told him, that he came in behalf of a most unfortunate person, a young man of the noble family of Morris, counts of Bishopsgate, and many times lord-mayors of London. That this youth had been taken from his family, by one captain Tanner, to the inconsolable grief of his relations; and that his uncle the present count Morris, had sent all over the world to seek for him, and even had given commissions to his crew, to treat with any who should detain, or to reward any who should preserve him.

He added, that I had now, for a great while, concealed myself in his island, from a gang of pirates, who had forced me into their service: that my uncle, having given letters of credit by his ship, I had made the first use of them, by presenting a draught of one thousand louis d'ors to his excellence, in token of my gratitude for the protection I had received from this island; and farther requested most earnestly of his excellence, that, in order to clear my honor, which was much dearer

dearer to me than my life; I might be heard before his excellence, touching those things of which my companions had been guilty.

When the captain had ended this pompous harangue, he produced the letter of credit, signed by the banker, and presented the draught of a thousand guineas, which he backed with his own security.

The governor expressed his satisfaction that I had been preserved upon his island; and telling those who accused me, that they were quite mistaken in the matter, he ordered them to remain, and desired I might know, that whensoever I pleased, he should be proud to receive the honour of my visit.

The captain himself was the messenger. They dressed me as well as they could do, in the ship clothes; and we went away immediately to the governor. He received me with great respect, and made me many compliments: he then desired I would refresh myself, and relate whatsoever I had to mention before him.

The people were very humble, when they saw me thus entertained by their governor, and had been told, that I was a person of the first quality in Great-Britain. The governor desired me to speak; but I requested he would first hear my accusers, that he might understand, what great cause I had to wish to clear my character. This was a very necessary step; for I knew not of how much I was to be accused; nor even yet had any knowledge of the nature of what had happened. It was now, in a few words, explained to me.

There

There stood up a person who declared, that he had been servant many years to monsieur Benoit, at the port plantation. That on a certain night, he mentioned, the family being all in bed, they were called up by an old friend of his master's. That monsieur Benoit himself let this person and his companions in; and that the very man who had called out, instantly murdered him; that the family were also murdered, all, except him, who had hid himself in a closet, whence he saw the matter; and that for the truth of all this, he appealed to his excellency's own knowledge; having given the same on oath before him, when he escaped and raised the country.

The witness was asked, who, and of what nation, he took the persons to be, that had committed this barbarity: he answered, they were Spanish pirates. He saw this at the first, and it was confirmed, he said, by the dresses and persons of those who had been killed afterwards in the house, and those who had been since shot in the woods; even the last person, killed only the day before, he said, was an old Spaniard, as his face and habit, torn and ragged as it was, would certify.

The governor, too eager to acquit me, replied, you say they were Spanish pirates, who committed this murder; but the personage before you is an English man of quality; therefore he cannot be concerned in the accusation. On this a planter stood up earnestly, and declared, that I was carrying the old man,
that

that was shot upon my shoulders, and that he afterwards fired at me in the water, and he wished he had killed me.

The governor ordered this person out of his presence, and to be put in irons, for want of respect before him; but I begged off the sentence: your excellence will soon perceive, said I, that I am perfectly innocent; and yet what that person says is true. Upon this he was pardoned, and the planters began to look upon me with great respect. The man added, that I gave no offence at that time, nor was guilty of any thing, that he knew of, only he was told I was one of them.

The governor, now addressing himself to the person who first gave evidence, said, with a very stern look, it remains upon you to tell whether this noble person was one of them, or not: you see how generously he acts by those who injure him: learn of strangers to behave yourselves as you should do.

The man very well understood the intent of this address. May it please your excellency, says he, he was among them; but he begged for my young master's life, very hard; and he took the cutlass out of one of his companions hands, that was going to kill another of the family. All that I saw of him, was, trying to save the people.

There's generosity! there's virtue! exclaims the governor. You see the English are a most noble people. I now requested that I might be heard. I had heard every thing they said in evidence, translated into English.

English by an interpreter, and I desired him to render perfectly what I should say.

I first addressed myself to the planters, telling them, all they had said was true; and that appearances were so against my innocence, that if I had fallen by their hands, my dying breath could not have accused them of any thing. Then turning to the governor, I told him my whole story. How I was forced among these people, and how I had strove to get from them. I added, that to save lives had always been my study; and that I at this time owed my own, not to his clemency, but to the faith and gratitude of one person, whom I had before saved, together with the whole ship's company to which he belonged; and who was now ready to attest the same.

My declaration was received with the applause of all present; and I added to my acknowledgment to the governor, a draught of two hundred pounds, to be distributed among the planters, at his excellency's pleasure.

CHAPTER XL

The author at length arrives in sight of England, and his thoughts on that occasion.

THE governor entertained us elegantly at his house, and then dismissed us fully supplied with all we wanted. I pressed the captain to get off as soon as he could, for fear

fear of more accidents; and when we had got at open sea, I fell down upon my knees, and returned my most hearty and humble thanks to almighty God, who had at length delivered me out of so many perils.

It would be in vain for me to attempt describing what were my transports, on the finding myself out of danger, out of the hands of companions who were always more terrible to me than enemies; and in a way of arriving with speed and safety in my own country. My uncle and my mistress were every night present in my dreams; and by day, they were never from my thoughts. Only one thing gave me pain. I never thought of my old Spaniard, but the tears ran down my cheeks. He had been as a father to me for a long time, and none knows but they who have felt them, the endearments of friendship, which grows up in adversity.

I shall not detain the reader with a parcel of incidents of no consequence. I doubt not but he is as eager as myself to get to shore, and see me in the arms of my kind relation, and married to my faithful mistress. We were at length in sight of land; and I cannot tell what were my raptures, on seeing English ground. I gave God thanks devoutly, and I laid myself down to rest. The next morning I was to rise in the British channel.

It will not be supposed, that I slept much. Toward morning I heard an unknown voice, and soon several others; but they were all English; so I had no fear. Alas! in this world

world, who is an innocent person not to fear? This was the crew of a man of war's boat. War was talked of in the Indies, and we were pressed into the service.

It was in vain, I would have remonstrated: there was none who would hear me. From the immediate prospect of such perfect happiness, I was plunged again into perfect misery. I must now see no uncle, no mistress: I must again be carried away against my will, stand the hazard of continual death, when life was so dear to me, and not know when it should be possible for me to come back.

Oh England! England! said I, what is thy pretended liberty! when one villain can decoy a man out of the protection of thy laws; and when those, who serve their king and country, can thus, in open violation of those laws, carry us away by force. After all my misfortunes, all my fatigues, and all my sufferings, after my miraculous escape among strangers, must I be oppressed again by my own countrymen; and when I was in sight of all my happiness, be torn from it by villainy!

I gave myself up for lost. I thought I had deceived myself, in supposing Heaven had even interfered in my protection. I wrote to my uncle, to tell him what had happened; but I never received any answer. I supposed they had been used to lose many of their men by applications, and, to prevent this, they took care no letters should be forwarded.

However this was, I was carried on board one ship, and soon after sent to another; and the only relief I had, which was in the sailor
who

who knew my uncle, and the whole story being near me, was soon taken away, for he was removed to another ship; indeed we were in a manner all parted, and I found myself in a situation altogether as deplorable as when among enemies and savages. I shall not detain the reader too much, with what were my thoughts on these occasions; but I must have leave to say, that what I had seen of the world to this time, gave me little occasion to be pleased with it; and that I found scarce any difference between my own countrymen, and those we are accustomed to condemn so violently; if any, my countrymen had the worst of the comparison.

Misery brings people to reason, on things that else would have escaped their notice. To be sure my affliction was never so great as now, that I was in sight of my own country, and in prospect of such perfect happiness, to be torn from it all by my own countrymen, and made a slave without the least pretended crime.

If the breach of faith in captain Tanner, who first ran away with me, shews that there are as bad men in England, as there possibly can be in any other place, I think this act of pressing shews, that our government can permit, nay, can authorize as violent breaches of our liberty, as the most arbitrary times, or the most savage people ever permitted.

I beg pardon of those whom I may offend by the observation; but I hope they will rather mend of their faults, than blame me for naming them. With all our boasted hu-
manity,

manity, and our boasted liberties and laws, I that have been among the most barbarous people, the greatest slaves, and worst governed constitutions, that there are in the world, never was in that place where I saw so little kindness, so little liberty, or so little protection from laws, as there is in Great-Britain.

But to wave reflections, and proceed with my history, I found myself on board a man of war, in the capacity of a common sailor, though possessed of many thousand pounds in paper, worse treated than the meanest fellows, because I was less expert at the duty, and kept under in a particular manner, because I had made some words about the hardship of my case, and desired leave to apply for my release.

It was on the twenty-second day of September, this last terrible accident befel me; and in about twelve days after we set sail, without my knowing any thing of our station, or being able to form any guess at the time we should return. We set out with two other men of war, and I took a parting view of England, and wept bitterly. About seven days after, a storm came on, which lasted no less than six days and nights. It surprized us near cape Finistere; but whither it drove us, we could not tell. We soon found it impossible to keep company with the other vessels; and soon after, to preserve any course. patience was all in our power; we left ourselves to the mercy of the sea, and being a strong

strong well-built ship, we rid it out with little damage.

What a joy was it to us, to behold fair weather again; we refitted as well as we could, and finding where we were, steered our course to the Canary islands. We put in at Gomera, and took fresh water, and got some assistance: as to the little accidents that had befallen our rigging, little indeed, when the fury of the storm was considered, yet they took us up some days. I do not know whether the foul weather we had suffered for a week, some time before, made the fair season we enjoyed, while we were off Gomera, appear fairer and finer than it was; but certainly I never thought so much of the season, or enjoyed the air and Heavens so perfectly, as while we were at this place.

I had some hope of obtaining my liberty during our stay at this place. They would not permit any of the pressed men to go on shore; and I was kept closer to duty than any; but there came a Spaniard on board two or three times, who seemed of consequence, and indeed was so. The knowledge I had obtained of this language, was now like to be of use to me. I recounted to him, in very few words, my whole story, who I was and how I had been treated: at the first he answered me only that a great many of the pressed sailors made up the same stories. This was a continual reception of my story: good God! how miserable was I, who had suffered so much, that none could believe it. As I pressed him farther, and spoke of the bill of credit,

credit, though that was not now in my hands, he gave some ear to me.

He naturally inquired where this was; but I could give him no account of it, as I knew nothing of the captain of our vessel, into whose hands it had been put. I believe, however, by the notice he afterwards took of what I said, that I should have brought it to something, had not one of the rascals that were set over us, found out that I spoke Spanish. As soon as this was known, the captain gave strict orders, that I should not be permitted to speak to any Spaniard whatsoever; and thus ended the last hope I entertained of regaining my liberty.

When we departed from Gomera, I found we were following the coast of Africa; and in little more than a fortnight, we came to an anchor off cape Verde; and here we remained, not only to get in some provisions, but, as it seemed to me, to carry on some sort of treaty with the negroes, though I never could understand the nature of it.

Our stay here was about eight days, and did not seem to the captain's satisfaction. From this time we cruized about nearly in the same latitudes, for some time; but to no purpose, that I could perceive. However, I do not take upon me to understand the nature of those orders a sea officer receives from the admiralty.

The weather all this time was bad, so that we had but a very uncomfortable time; and at about three weeks distance from our last weighing anchor, we were one night in terrible

terrible alarm. It was not without reason; for we were in the most eminent danger of being wrecked upon an uninhabited island, which our sailors called nothing more than a bank of sand; and which, I was told afterwards, was between the cape Verde islands and cape Three Points.

We got off safe, though the weather was bad, and continued some weeks more in a very uncomfortable way. We doubled cape Three Points, and kept on our way, in a rough sea, where no body on board could think we had any business. Whether the captain was secret in his own nature, or whether the officers were very trusty, none of the private men ever heard the design of the cruize: for my part, from what they said, and what I myself saw, it appeared to me, as if the admiralty had sent a ship, with no intent but that it should be lost. We were tossed by storm after storm, from place to place, and all the time seemed aiming at nothing, unless it were, that men esteemed it a duty, that a certain number of ships of war should be out at sea a certain time; and do as little good to themselves, and as little harm to their enemies, as was possible.

Another storm, the last I experienced in this vessel, drove us toward the coast of Africa, not following it, as we had hitherto done, but in a direct line upon it. Toward evening, after a miserable day's toil, we saw land. It was not as I had supposed, the coast of Africa, but an island fifty or sixty miles distant from it, and of considerable extent;

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we dropped anchor, and, with great difficulty, saved the vessel from running upon the rocks; of which, they said, there were several very dangerous on this part of the island.

We lay at anchor all night in terrible fears, for the weather was very bad, and we were not sure about the ground. In the morning, a party was to go off in the boat, to cut wood, which we began to want, and with which the coast was well stored.



THE
T R A V E L S
OF
Mr DRAKE MORRIS, MERCHANT.

BOOK IV

Containing what happened to him on the
island of Fernando Po, near the coast of
Africa.

CHAP I.

*The author undertakes a very strange and desperate
adventure.*

THE island, upon whose coast we were
at this time, is called Ile Fernando.
The natives are negroes, like those of the
adjacent coast of Africa, but there are some
Portuguese settled among them. I found our
captain would not have been very ready to
come near their principal port; he trusted to
there being nobody, either of Portuguese or
negroes, about the part of it where we now
were. Yet even in this he had his doubts.

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For this reason he ordered the pressed men to be sent upon the duty.

What cruelty is this, and how unworthy the British character of justice and humanity! that people, who are forcibly carried away from their country, their families, and their expectations, are to be treated, into the bargain, worse than any other; and if there be any desperate enterprize, they are to be sent upon it. However, all this turned out not unfavourably for my present situation.

I was one of the number of those exposed on this occasion to the danger. Eight of us, all pressed men, were sent off; and we had orders to return at night. The term night was enough to encourage misery and despair, like mine, to any attempt, for it gave till the day after for the execution. In the dark they would never send after us. We went to the island, and fastening the boat, proceeded to the woods. We saw no creature. When we were preparing for the work, I spoke in the following manner:

Brother seamen, I think we are used very hardly for free-born Englishmen, and you seem to think we shall fare worse, rather than better, for the future. It is very uncertain, when this ship will return home; and when it does, I find you think it very likely you may be turned over to some other; so that you have no chance to see your own country. I have been amongst many barbarous nations, and I never found the worst of them so cruel as my own countrymen. It is my advice, for us to give ourselves up into the hands of the people

people of this island, let them be who they will. I am sure, though they should be savages, we shall be better treated by them, than by our own countrymen. We shall have a better life while we stay, and be more likely to get home.

I inforced this by the many things I had seen; and told them, that the people of foreign nations were not so cruel as they might have heard, and that, as to savages that eat men there were no such in the world; nor do I, in my conscience, believe there are. The Indians are a people that love honest dealing; and, in some places, where the white people have stole them away for slaves, or otherwise ill treated them, they may have looked upon them as enemies, and treat them so at sight; but otherwise they were a friendly and well meaning people.

All this I urged to my fellow passengers, and to the expedition. I told them, it was but morning now, and we had four and twenty hours for an escape; and there would be no danger of our getting from our own people with great ease, who would fancy the natives had destroyed us, and so make no farther inquiry after us. But it was in vain I talked all this to them. They were as sensible of their hardships as I was, but they had not my grief and my despair, and consequently they had not my resolution. I desired them to leave me then by myself, and say I was killed by the natives, so that I might take my own fortune, and be no more heard of.

They all pitied me very much, and persuaded me to stay with them, but when I refused positively, and they saw I was in earnest, they took their leave of me. They gave me my belly-full of victuals and drink, and as much as I chose to carry away with me; and they offered me one of their guns, but I would not load myself with it in my journey; beside, I did not choose to be seen with any offensive weapon in a country where I meant to resign myself, not to resist any. However, I accepted of a small pocket pistol from one John Holcombe, and about half a dozen charges of powder, and as many bullets; by way of defence against a wild beast, if I should be attacked.

Thus slenderly equipped, and taking one parting glass of spirits, I once more took my leave of my countrymen, and pursued my course directly forward from our boat. They had told me the island was but about eighteen miles broad in that place; so that I could very well walk it in seven hours, in spite of all the roughness of the way. I minded the sun, and knew how far he ought to be down when I drew near the opposite shore: there I expected to find the natives; and if I missed them at first, I could not be very long in finding them, in following the course of the shore; for the whole length of the island was but thirty miles, according to my information.

C H A P. II.

The author's travels alone in this unknown country.

I TRAVELED for about a mile and a half over a very disagreeable sandy plain, and covered with odd little plants, like melons. They had neither stalks, leaves, nor branches, but only rose up in a roundish or oblong body, with a purple flower at the head, and were covered all over with prickles, like the stalk of a thistle. I supposed them to be some sort of fruit, and cut one or two, but found them naught. They were, however, very troublesome to me in walking.

I now came to a wood of large trees, which seemed to run strait on, with a tolerably even edge before me. I knew how much worse it was to travel in woods, than in an open country, so kept along-side of it, and marked the sun for my director. My companions had fallen to work, as soon as I left them, and I heard still the sound of their axes cutting down the small trees. On a sudden they came to stop, and, in less than a minute after, I heard a full discharge of their guns. Danger was very near me, so I turned at once into the wood, on my right hand, and climbed a large tree, that everlooked the rest of the wood in that part. As I was climbing, I heard a second discharge of their guns, but not so many as the first; and, after this, I heard no more of them, nor ever knew what

of them. I could see a great way round, from this tree, but I saw nothing of human shape. The wood in which they were at work, hid the place of the disaster from my view; so I was quit in ignorance.

However, as it appeared plainly to me, that the noise of their axes had brought the enemy upon them, it was as plain, that the enemy could not be far off. I therefore kept all day in the tree, and resolved to travel in the dark, at least half a dozen miles, although I did not know but I might fall in the way of some wild beast, which I dreaded much more than any thing of the human kind.

Accordingly, as soon as it was darkish, I descended; and leaving the wood, I went on in the plane. I heard the cries of several wild beasts in the wood, which made me know that this little island could not be very well inhabited, otherwise they would have been destroyed. I was terrified enough; and after walking about the way I intended, or less, going on all the time very briskly, I again turned into the wood, and climbed a tree by way of safety.

As soon as day peeped, I descended, and set forward again, as fast as I could, taking a little refreshment of that I carried with me. The wood, I could perceive now, lead more and more to the left, so that I should quite loose my course, if I kept along the side, I therefore plunged into it at once, and made my way forward. I concluded, that I could not have more than eight or nine miles to go, and that was but three or four hours good walking, let the way be as bad as it would.

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It was bad enough for the most part; these woods being quit pathless, and a sort of tough weed, like the honeyfuckle stalks, spreading from tree to tree, in a very disagreeable manner. There is no loosening of them, for they are generally wound round all the trees, so that one is forced to stride over them, and many of them were so high, that I was obliged to cut them with my knife.

I had computed too hastily about the time, for I hardly got on at the rate of a mile and half an hour now; and I grew quite down hearted, for fear of being kept in the wood all night. Beside, it was hot, and I grew faint with fatigue: I had a little food left but no drink; and, in such a place as this thirst is more terrible than hunger.

I made my way on, however, and, after some minutes more, began to find the ground damp. This was very refreshing to my feet, and I was in hopes of water. My hope increased; for I found the earth begin to produce little herbs; whereas all the way hitherto it had been dry and barren, except of trees and shrubs, which drew their nourishment deeper. Oh! what music would the sound of a running brook have been to me at this moment; but that was not to be expected.

I went on, fatigued more and more, though in more and more hopes; and at length, when I was about to lie down, and give up as impossible, ever to get through these intricate woods, I discovered a track in which the weeds were already cut asunder; it turned

to the left ; so that, at the worst, it promised to bring me to the plain again, whence I had set out ; and, in an island like this, plain ground, and brisk walking, must bring me to the coast somewhere in a few hours.

It was not my business to avoid the inhabitants, even though I thought they destroyed my countrymen, of which yet I knew nothing certainly, though I had sufficient cause to fear the worst. However, I offered up my prayers to God, to direct me for my safety, and I betook myself boldly up to the path. I heard no sound of any thing like man or beast, as I went on ; nor was there the least motion in the trees, the day being quite calm and sultry. The ground continued damp under my feet, and there were more and more small herbs ; but the way grew more and more intricate. I fancied, at length, it was only the track of some wild beast, that went this way for water : but I was persuaded water was near, and I was dying with thirst ; so I pursued my way, whatever might be the consequence.

C H A P. III.

The author having found this a path in the forest, he follows it: a very unexpected consequence.

AS I walked pretty freely here, and at an equal, though not very quick rate, I could make some guess at the time; and at the way I came to a stop, and recollected, that I could not have been less than two hours in this track, and therefore I must have walked, at the least, five or six miles. I found no end, and I was quite down-hearted: sick and faint, and so parched up with thirst, that my tongue hung out of my mouth. I laid me down with my face to the damp ground, for a little relief, and gave myself up for lost, and expected no other but to die there.

After a few minutes, I recovered a little strength, and I proceeded. The path lost itself amongst impenetrable bushes, and it was with difficulty I at length espied a small track running under them. This, by the height, which was less than a yard, I judged could belong to nothing but some wild beast; but I still kept up the opinion, that it led to water; so I crawled upon hands and knees, and followed it. I trembled every moment, lest it should lead me to the den of some savage; but still I pursued my course. At length it led me to the trunk of an old tree,

of a prodigious bigness, and there I again was lost.

I came to a stop, because it was necessary, and I considered to what all this could be owing. The tree was covered with moss, in a state of decay, and produced no fruit. This long course of so many miles, could never be to come at this useless stop. I recollected that I had like to have given up the path for lost before, but found it in a concealed place under the bushes; and I doubted not but I should still find it somewhere.

I looked every way, and every where about, but there was no trace. All was insuperable entangling of bushes and briers, and no path any where. I examined the tree, and found no path about it, only in working my body close to it, and rounding it, I at length found one place where the thickets made no resistance. This was plainly the continuance of the way; but to what purpose made thus secret, I could not guess. I once more offered up my prayers to God, to defend a poor creature, whose crimes had deserved all he suffered; but whom he had hitherto miraculously preserved; and not to forsake me; and I pushed myself round.

The tree was of vast circumference; but I had no sooner got on the opposite side, than I could discover a green plain through the thicket: I burst through it at once, and the moment I came into the open place, an arrow whizzed by me. I threw myself upon my knees.

knees. And can I possibly describe the scene that was before me.

I was in a small, but beautiful plain, open to the sky, and covered with verdure like an English meadow. In the midst was a basin of pure water, twenty feet or more in breadth; and, at the upper end of the plain, a hut built of dry wood, and lined with moss and turf. Before the door of it were an Indian family. The wife was leaning against a sloping bank of turf; and the husband had been lying with his head in her lap; but he had raised it up, on the disturbance I gave them, by entering. The whole spot was so little, that I was very near them, though on the opposite side. The son, who had shot the first arrow, had another fitted in his bow; but the old man, taking up his own bow in his left hand, stopped the youth with his right, and raised himself up to look at me. The family consisted of another son, a man grown, and three children, whose sex I did not distinguish.

I continued on my knees, and the old man spoke to the two youths, as I thought by his accent, with kindness about me. I had at first given myself up for lost, and it was well I did not perish by the first shot, for the arrows of these people are all poisoned, and the least wound is mortal. Alas! when I thought I was to perish, because I was among savages, I forgot what I had so much reason to know, that there were no savages like those of my own country. Nay, I am ready to affirm, from

all I have seen, that we are the greatest of all barbarians.

The old man advanced toward me, holding his bow in his left hand, and in no posture of offence; but he turned often back to give directions to his sons, who stood with their arrows drawn to the head, and levelled at my breast. I could understand the meaning. He came to me in kindness, not to hurt me; and if I offered him any violence, they were to destroy me.

I continued on my knees; and the old man coming up to me, took me by the hand, and raised me. He spoke something I did not understand, but I could only answer by falling again upon my knees, looking up to him, with tears running down my cheeks, and then lifting up my eyes to Heaven.

He raised me once more, and raising up my eyes again to Heaven with his, he smote his own breast with his open hand, and then laying it on my head, turned toward the family. This, as I afterwards understood, was calling Heaven to witness, that my life should be safe; and the youths understood it: they threw down their weapons, and ran to help me forward.

I was faint with fatigue, thirst, and terror. They led me, scarce able to support myself, to the hut; the mother wiped my tongue, which was yet hanging parched out of my mouth, and then applying to it some slices of a thick red root, of a pleasing sourish taste, it cooled and refreshed me. They laid me down against the slanting bank, and the good creature

ture, after a little time, brought me something warm to drink. I had looked wishfully at the water, but they shook their heads. Any thing cold, would, in my condition, have been death. After swallowing some of this warm liquor, I was greatly refreshed. They rubbed my hands and my legs, and took as much care to bring me to myself, as if I had been a son. I found afterwards, that in this hot country, the natives frequently came home from hunting, in this deplorable condition. These are the ways they have found to bring them to themselves. All the family was gathered about me now, in some good office or other; and I could see in all their countenances, their wishes for my doing well. The two sons led me by the arms about the coolest part of the plain, and the father and mother walked before me, the little children following.

O good God! that people like these are to be called savages, when that wretch, who ran away with me from my native country, and those who, after I had suffered so long in that capacity, and gone through so many hardships, forced me, against all law, as well as humanity, to leave my country again, before I could set my foot upon it, or kiss the ground, are to be called christians.

After I had been led about for an hour, resting at times, they brought me back to the hut. There they laid me down upon a soft bed of moss and sweet smelling herbs, laid upon a slanting part of the ground, and giving
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a second quantity of the same refreshing liquor, without any solid food, they left me to my rest.

C H A P. IV.

The farther treatment the author met from the savages.

THE day was far spent when I laid me down in the hut; and I was so exhausted with fear and labour, and so refreshed by the mess the good creatures had prepared for me, that I fell fast asleep. I did not wake till after very many hours; and then not of myself, but upon hearing some little noise in the hut. I started from my couch, not well remembering where I was, and saw the two young savages (for so it is the custom to call these people) ready to go out. They shook me by the hand with great affection, and pointed to the woods, and waved their hands to me, pointing to my couch. They made other motions, to describe their going off, and the occasion of it. And pointing to the sun, which was then just rising above the trees, lifted up their fingers strait over their heads, and then looked upon the floor.

I bowed, in token that I understood them. They were going a hunting, and they would be back by noon. My looks wished them sport; and they pointed to my couch, as bidding me lie down again.

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The father and the mother lay in a remote part of the hut, with a kind of wall of branches of trees between them and the rest: the young children were fast asleep together, just at the foot of this division. I knelt to say my prayers, and return my thanks to Heaven. If I were never to see my friends again, these people were preferable greatly to the savages of my own country: they seemed to receive me favourably, and it would be better to live among them, than to throw myself again in the way of those who have no mercy. With these peaceful thoughts I again laid myself down to rest.

I did not sleep after this, but as I lay, I had the most pleasing prospect imaginable. The wood surrounded this beautiful spot, very deep on every side; and the trees which composed it, were covered with beautiful leaves. The whole air was perfumed with the smell. There was a gentle breeze that wafted it to the hut; and the long strings of blossoms seemed like so many streamers. The sun was shining full upon the plain, and his image reflected from the smooth surface of the pond, had a most pleasing effect. I was in raptures with the spot, as well as with the people.

About two hours after the sons were gone, the old man came out: he had his bow and arrows in his hand, and he came up to me. He pressed me by the hand, and seeming to bid me keep on the couch, made signals that he would be back also by noon.

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Some time after, the children waked, and they soon roused the mother. She fondled them, but shook her head, as much as to say, there was no victuals. I suppose it was now about seven in the morning. When she had put on her little covering of weeds and feathers about her middle, she gently called me up, and with the same fondness she had shewn to her children, made signs to pacify me about food for the present, pointing to the sun, and again to the sky over her head, and nodding by way of promise, that by noon there should be enough for us all. In the mean time, she took me out upon the plain, and the children with her. She spoke a great deal, but I could understand nothing by her words; but her signs were very expressive.

I understood her plainly, that this had been a great while their place of residence; and her countenance at the same time sufficiently shewed, that they were very happy in it. She made me understand, that they had cleared away the wood, and made the fine open spot that was before their cottage. She pointed to the water, as the reason for their fixing on that place; and made me understand, that it was but a poor puddle at first, but that their hands had opened the present basin for it. She made me conceive, that the wood all about them was very thick, and that it had need be so, for it was their own shelter against very terrible enemies, who, as she made me understand, were like me. I made signs, and pointed up to Heaven for witness, I was none such; and she made me understand,

stand, that she truly believed me. I even understood by her motions and looks, that she meant I could not be so cruel to betray them, when they had been so kind to me. I kneeled to Heaven in testimony of my integrity.

After we had walked together some time, the careful mistress of the family, looking at the shadow of an old tree, as it fell near the door of the hut, pointed to it to the children. The little things ran to a corner at a distance, and raking among some white ashes, blew with their mouths till they found some fire. They ran about with great alacrity, and putting together some dry sticks, soon got up a little fire; and I saw the eldest of the three very carefully pile up a heap of larger and smaller dry sticks, at a little distance, for a supply. It was surprizing with what readiness the little things broke the sticks to proper lengths, and prepared every thing.

Mean time, the mother going into the inner part of the hut, brought out a kind of net, made of small twigs of a tough wood, with a surprizing artifice and dexterity. She now led me to the side of the basin, but gently, and shewed me hundreds of fish playing about in it, but made signs to me not to go too near, for the water was so clear, they were easily frightened. I saw, with great pleasure, her address in managing the sport. As the family had themselves cut the hollow of the basin, they had not omitted to contrive for the taking of the fish. There were several cuts into the
side

side, on every part; and the good woman, just shewing herself to a shoal of the fish, kept behind to drive them, as we do pheasants, into one of these cuts. She was as diligent about this, as the children were about the fire; and there was occasion for all her cunning, for the fish seemed shy enough; they passed several of the little cuts, without turning in, and at length launched into the deep water.

The good woman continued her assiduity, and at length was not able to drive any in. She came to a cut where there were several at play, under a tuft of long weeds, that hung over from the bank. She called me to see these, and with great cheerfulness in her aspect, pointed to the fire-place, as much as to say, they should help our dinner.

She darted the wicker net across the opening, with a surprising dexterity, and was drawing it in to take them up, when a very large and fierce creature, broke its way upon us though the thicket on the right hand, just where the fire-place was. The woman threw herself into the middle of the water, but she gave a most terrible shriek, and named a word by which I had before heard her call her children. The infants snatched up lighted sticks for their defence, and the creature stood a moment, as if startled at the fire, but eying them fiercely. I took this opportunity, for we were very near, and advancing about three steps, discharged my pistol at him.

I took happy aim. He turned directly upon me. I faced him as he reared up; but
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he fell just as he was fixing upon my shoulder. I had shot him into the head, so that he lived but a moment, but that was employed in revenge. However, I got no other hurt, than two holes, made by his claws, in my shoulder; for he did not live to make the gripe.

The good woman ran up to me, as soon as she got out of the water, and fell down flat upon the ground, hugging my feet, and kissing them. She pointed to the children, as her great reason of gratitude, and examining the hurt upon my shoulder, she looked cheerful, as much as to bid me not be frightened at it; and squeezing the juice of an herb, that grew by the water-side, into it, the pain went off immediately.

I remarked this weed, for it made a perfect cure in a few days. The leaves were like those of a stinging nettle, only narrower, and the flowers were small, and of a red colour. We now examined the creature I had killed; and she expressed sufficiently her wonder at the way in which I had done it. The animal was of the bigness of the largest mastiff dog, only much thicker limbed; his teeth were as white as ivory, and two of them were as long as my finger. His claws also were of the same length very nearly, and were as hard as bone, and very sharp. The colour was somewhat like the marking of a tortoise-shell cat; and the whole beast looked like an overgrown creature of that sort, only vastly strong. The ground colour was tawny, and the spots were black; but they were not round like them of a leopard, as I have seen them

them shewn in London, nor quite strait down, like the streaks of a tiger. The good woman looked upon it with surprize, that testified she had never seen any thing like it; and I have some notion that it was what they call a panther, but I am not sure. However, it was a most terrible creature.

After the woman's gratitude and surprize were over, she went up to the fish, for they had no possibility of escaping; and drawing the wooden net very slowly on, then she took them all out. There were seven very handsome fish; they were of a pound weight or more a-piece, and were not unlike our perch, only of better colours. She made signs, by way of asking, if I would have any of them now; but looking up at the sun, I made her understand, that I thought the family would be at home soon; and I would stay. She understood me, and seemed pleased. God knows, I was hungry enough; but I would do nothing that should give offence. The fish were put into a little pit of water, to keep them alive till all was ready; and the next business was to make ready the fire, and to dress up the hut. It was with vast satisfaction, I saw the children, at their mother's command, run to get branches of flowering shrubs, and sweet herbs, which she stuck up in every part of the hut, converting it into an arbour. The fragrance of the flowers converted the place every day into something fresh and new; and I could not but envy the happy possessors of the retirement.

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In half an hour the bower was decked, the fish were taken out of the net, and made ready for dressing; the fire was in order, and the ground was swept, upon which we were to dine by way of table. The children performed all the little offices with a regularity that charmed me, and nothing could surpass the readiness of their mother, except it were the looks of joy, with which she expected the coming of her husband and her sons.

She looked up at the sun, which shone with a peculiar clearness, over and over, as it approached the meridian, and seemed impatient, though she knew it was not really the time. At length we heard four strokes upon the body of a tree, and presently after a rushing among the bushes. I was charging my pistol, expecting another savage; but she smiled, and made me understand, I had nothing to fear, for that those strokes were the signal they always gave, that they were coming.

In an instant the old man appeared, and in a few moments after his two sons. The day was hot, they had been out several hours, and theirs were no chafes of idleness; they were covered with sweat and dust, and they no sooner had thrown down their bows, than they threw off the little incumbrance of clothes they wore, and plunged into the water.

The father had brought in a bird I never saw before, of the bigness of a turkey, but with short wings, they called it a davedew, and a little goat, no bigger than a lap-dog,
yet

yet with stout horns, and seemingly full grown. The sons had lugged in together a boar hardly dead: they had left these upon the bank, and were swimming about with alacrity.

Nature teaches what is conducive to health. They refreshed themselves by the bath; but to have staid in it would have weakened them. They came out, and tied their little coverings about their waists. They were walking up to the hut; but the good woman stopped them. She led them to the place where the savage lay, that I had killed.

C H A P. V.

*The author is extremely respected for his exploit.
The way in which he lived with the family.*

I COULD perceive by the astonishment in their countenances, they had never seen any such creature before. When the woman had told them that I killed it; and saved her and her children from being devoured, they fell upon the ground, as she had done before, and embraced my knees. It is impossible to tell the thousand methods they took to express their gratitude and respect for me. The old man stuck a fine feather, from the great bird, in my coat, and the sons presented me each with a javelin, which they fetched out of the hut, all of wood, but of curious work. I accepted their civilities with great tokens of respect.

respect. But I could perceive in their countenance, a curiosity equal to their satisfaction. This was very natural. They asked their mother, as I conceived, in their own language, how I had killed the creature; of this she was as ignorant as they, and could only express her sense of it, by making a great noise, to imitate the report of the pistol. They applied to me, and I found I should not easily explain it to them.

I first examined the carcase, and shewed them a wound in the back part of the neck, where the bullet had entered. At this, the woman was as much surpris'd as they. I then took out my knife, and cutting away the flesh, followed the course of the bullet, and found where it had entered the cavity of the skull. I then shewed them the piece of lead lodged in the brain.

They could understand how that should kill the creature; but they could not conceive how it came there. I then took out my pistol, I shewed them the gun-powder, and explained how it was charged, and what was the effect.

I convinced them of the precious nature of the powder, by my sparing use of it; but I charged the pistol once before them, and putting in the bullet, fired it against a tree. They saw me afterwards cut out the bullet, and were perfectly convinced. I found by their motions, they had an idea of guns, that would make a noise and kill, though they knew not how; but they had no notion of death from so little an engine.

When

When I had perfectly explained the matter to them, I made a present of the pistol, and the few charges of powder and ball I had, to the father, who accepted it very joyfully, and laid up the whole together in a corner of the hut.

The sons were very curious about the gunpowder, and I could perceive, wanted to ask me, if they could not find more of it somewhere about the earth, for they took it, I perceived, to be a kind of black sand. But I convinced them of their error, telling them it was made by art, and only in very remote kingdoms, so that they must guard it very choicely. I gave also my pocket-knife, which was a very good one, to the mother; and having two pair of scissars about me, I gave one to one brother, and the other to the other.

They all accepted my presents with the greatest joy, and yet I could see in them something of that natural complaisance, which should say, they were sorry to rob me of them. I understood farther, that they accepted only the use of them, for that, if ever I went away, which they seemed to think of with great pain, I should take them with me.

Every thing being settled in this most friendly manner, the good wife set about preparing the dinner, for which we were all very ready. For my part, I had long found it difficult to prevent my appetite getting the better of my good manners, but I thought it a very essential thing, to set out upon a good footing.

The

The sons helped their mother in making ready the things for dressing; and I could perceive that my scissars and knife were very useful; they handled them dexterously enough, and with great pleasure. The old man all this while was sitting, and he called me to sit by him. He seemed desirous to say a great deal to me; the death of the savage and the preservation of his family, I could find, made a very great part of it; but farther, I could understand very little.

In about an hour we sat down to dinner, a very savory and good one, and we eat heartily. The boar was cut to pieces, and some bits broiled, with sweet herbs, of which I knew neither the names nor flavours, but very pleasant: the little goat was roasted, and eat very like a squirrel, as I have eaten them roasted in England; very pleasant, but dry. After this, we had some fish dressed among the embers: but they were dirty, and tasted of the ashes. I perceived they liked this mightily, the sharp taste of the ashes serving by way of salt to the insipid fish.

We dined very happily, and then sat down to rest, as I had found them upon the day before, when I first came in the way of their habitation.

C H A P. VI.

*The author accommodates himself to the customs
of the family.*

AFTER this manner lived this happy family, detached from the whole world; and in possession of a little spot of the island. After dinner, they sat and enjoyed the warm sun, and the cool breeze, conversing together with perfect amity for three or four hours. Then they walked about the little lawn before their hut, and, toward the cool of the evening, made little excursions several ways into the wood, where no path, from any other part of it met them. Here the children placed a kind of sponges, made out of strings almost as stiff as wire, which they twisted out of the bark of trees. And after two hours such rambling, they returned to the hut; where, knowing nothing of the use of candles they went to bed by sun-set, to be ready to meet him upon the hills, in the morning, in the chase of their prey.

On the next day, the old man took me out with him, giving me a very good bow, and some arrows. We saw many birds of different kinds upon the trees; and the little goats, of which he had killed one the day before, skipped every now and then before us; but they were very nimble. The old man made me try at many a good mark, and laughed at me very heartily for missing. He nodded in great good humour to me, intimating

mating that he would teach me better; and bid me, as I understood, remark him.

There was a small bird, toward the top of a very tall tree, and among a great cluster of the branches. The old man bade me mind him, and, drawing his bow, let fly. The moment he had discharged his arrow, he threw down the bow, and, running up to the tree, climbed it with an agility that surprized and astonished me.

I had never stood to look after his arrow; but I could now see it where it had pierced the body of the bird, and stuck in a branch of the tree. The old man knew it would do so, and climbed the tree without waiting to see it. He took out the arrow, and came down in a moment, with the bird upon it.

We passed about seven hours in this manner, in a quiet part of the woods, not far from the hut; where we waited the motions of creatures, that came in our way, and gave ourselves no pains to seek after them. We both shot many times; I at the easy marks, and he at the difficult; but so it was, I never hit, nor did he miss once.

At noon we returned: the youths were there before us, and had brought in a great deal of game. The old man entertained them in the afternoon, with my skill as a marksman; and whenever he was inclined to laugh at me, the good woman cried *pow*, very loud, as much as to say, my weapon was the pistol.

In the evening we spent three hours in practising me to shoot at a mark, and I began

to grow a little better. Thus we lived day after day; and a very constant employment or diversion of the afternoon, was instructing me in my shooting. When I thought I grew very expert, they would laugh at me, and to shew me what might be done, one of the youths would sometimes toss up a piece of wood, as high as he could throw it; then shooting at it, would never miss to fix the arrow in it, as it fell. Another would take aim at a fish in the pond, and would often hit it. This I found was their greatest piece of dexterity, but they were always very much chagrined if they missed. They frequently would mention their missing me, with the first arrow they shot at me, as I could understand by their signs; but they always lifted up their hands to Heaven when they named it, as if in gratitude and joy they had not shot me. My dropping upon my knee was the occasion of my escaping; and the same posture prevented their aiming at me again. They had a very terrible idea of white men, and I suppose, had reason. I could perceive they were in their nature far from cruel: but they looked on the white people as on the savages; creatures that they must destroy for their safety.

C H A P. VII.

A very terrible shock to the tranquillity of the family.

AFTER about a month spent in this peaceful and happy manner, the two youths, on seeing me very expert with my bow, made me understand, that I should go out with them the next morning. I had hitherto gone with the old man, who kept upon the watch, and never went far; and whose prey was generally small. The morning after, according to their promise, they roused me at the peep of dawn, and one of them new stringed my bow, while the other gave me a parcel of fresh arrows, they took me out. We traversed a vast part of the wood before sun-rise; and once were upon the verge of the plain I had first seen; but they did not go upon it. They took new ways, all under the shelter of the trees, and put up a variety of game.

I was transported: this suited my taste better than waiting and watching for some stray animal. I followed them up hills, and down precipices. We swept over the vallies, and searched and beat every quarter. I killed my share, and we went home loaded. I was fatigued enough; but taking their method of plunging into the water at my return, I was refreshed.

I know not when I have passed such a morning. I was pleased in a high degree

with their life before, but now I was transported with it. I determined to think no more of my friends or country; but looking upon these as my father and mother and brothers, to live and die among them. I only pitied the world, that so few had a sense of real happiness.

Thus I lived among them, a brother and a son. Our days passed all alike, but they were not therefore the less pleasant; by degrees I learned some of their language, for it consisted chiefly of monosyllables; and as, in order to retain the words, I used to write them down upon the bark of some tree, with the knife, they began to understand the use of letters. I taught them to spell the names by which they called one another, and they were vastly delighted.

I lived among them in this manner, as I guess, fourteen or fifteen months, the happiest life that could be conceived; and I did not foresee it could have any end. Alas! the poor old man sickened, and died.

We hear of sorrow for friends, in these peopled nations of the world. Think what a loss this must be, and how truly it must have been lamented. Our family was little enough for society before, now it was retrenched, and the love we had for the old man, made us inconsolable. The widow never held up her head after. She died in six weeks more, and we buried her, as we had done the old man, under the great tree facing the hut.

My

My heart melted within me. What then must theirs have done? The stroke was not to be recovered; the youths grew tenderer of me than ever, but they could not bear the place that put them in continual remembrance of their loss. Every time they passed the tree, they wept, and I never looked at it without tears. The children cried almost incessantly; but they were now grown up so well as to be able to run about. We took them out upon our parties, and the sport was as usual; but, alas! there were no parents to receive us at our return.

True sorrow is not diminished by time; but is increased. It was so with ours; and every thing grew hateful. They mentioned to me frequently, the miserable situation of our dying thus one by one; and asked, what must become of the last, whosoever that should be, when he must have no companion, but wander like a savage. They talked, but it was distantly, of leaving this, which, I found, was not their country; but all was unsettled and uncertain.

C H A P. VIII.

An accident which conspires with the rest, to occasion a strange resolution.

THE two youths, my brothers, as I called them, were out one afternoon, at a small distance from the hut, when I was

diverting myself with shooting at the fish. We all were at our amusements, not at our chases of support, and were so near, that we sometimes called to one another: the children were with them.

I was astonished at a voice of terror I heard from one of the young men; and I snatched the pistol, which lay always loaded. I made my way to them, and saw a white man dead at a distance, and another escaping, though they pursued him: I joined the chase, and came nearer; but he was very swift of foot. I discharged my pistol at him, and he dropped. Whether this was to avoid the shot, or that he thought himself wounded, I know not; for, in spite of all our toil, he escaped. He did not remain down a moment: and he was fresh; we spent with the morning fatigue; so that he out-ran us.

We returned with the children to the hut, and sat down together. They told me these two persons came at once upon them, and seizing one of the children, would have run away with it. They called to me in vain, and had killed one before I came up. But now that one was escaped, they doubted not they should be attacked. They told me, I was black in my heart, though of the white mens colour, and that no other of them ever had any humanity. They reasoned very well, that three of us could not resist the numbers they would bring, and that nothing was to be done, but to escape. They waited my consent, and I gave it freely, though with tears: I promised to accompany them where-soever

soever they should go; and they resolved to set out instantly.

The little they had to carry, was soon put up. They fell upon their faces, and kissed the ground before the door of the hut; and I carved the names of the father and mother upon the tree, and, watering the grave with my tears, we set off together. Ten minutes, from the time of our leaving the chace of the flying Portuguese, dispatched all this business. Not one minute was to be thrown away: we all turned our backs upon the dear spot, never to return to it; and set out.

It was now evening; but the night was the safest time of travel. Each of the brothers took one of the children upon his back; for we were in too much haste to trust their short steps; and we set out at a good rate, and continued it.

As the day-light left us, the moon supplied its place; and the eldest of the youths was our guide, following the course of the stars. I had supposed we should in a few hours reach the coast, for we seemed nearly in the same direction with which I had set out from the opposite shore; and the breadth of the island was not great. However, after a very brisk march of about nine hours, I saw nothing of it. The day now began to dawn; and our youths, very well satisfied with the ground they traversed, sought about for a place of rest.

We turned into a thick wood, and so made our way on into what might have seemed an impenetrable brake of bushes: in the

center of this we cleared a little spot, and, tearing up some moss and soft herbs, made a bed for the children. We then stood upon the watch, as the old man and I used to do, for prey, and killed enough for our use. In these unfrequented places the beasts are not so shy as in others, where men are about, and danger is frequent.

We made a little fire, letting the children rest. The remains of an old file, which had some way fallen into the hands of the family, and was prized as a relick of great value, served us as a steel; and we had flints enough. When we had dressed the food, we waked the children to partake with us, and were forced to chew some sourish herbs, by way of drink; for there was no water here.

When the repast was dressed, we carefully put out the fire, that no smoke might betray us; but of this the elder of the sons seemed not fearful, for he had traversed every part of the little island, in his sporting, and knew we were now very remote both from our own hut, and any of their habitations.

CHAP. IX.

Some account of the original coming of the family to this island.

AFTER we had eaten our breakfast, next morning we fell into talk; and the youths relieving one another in discourse, as well

well as they could, told me the story of their family, by way of explaining to me their present intentions, and the scheme they were to follow; and, to tempt me the more to join with them, for they truly loved me as a brother, and would have died sooner than have forsaken me.

They began by saying, that, to persons who lived by their bows, one country was as good as another: but that there were many reasons why they should dislike that in which we then were. It is an island, said they, a little trifling spot, and it is in the possession of cruel persons. They lie in wait for men, as if they were beasts, and destroy or carry them away, wherever they find them. Why then, continued they, should we live near the coast, and an island is all over coasts. It is better to be farther in a large country, and such a one there is before us, where men like us inhabit, and will treat you kindly, because we love you. Pray therefore go with us.

They added many intreaties to make me confirm my resolution of going with them; and then told me the story they had heard from their father concerning themselves.

It seemed the old man was a native of a large country, very remote from this, somewhere upon the continent of Africa. A Portuguese had inveigled him, under pretence of friendship, on board his vessel, and he had sent for his wife and children, these youths: with these he had treacherously set sail, and after a very long voyage, had put in at this island. He had remained here to visit his

vessel, as well as to take in some provisions; and one night the father and mother, taking each a child upon their backs, had dropped into the sea, and swam on shore.

Their peaceful submission to their fate, had rendered them unsuspected of any design to escape; but in the morning they were, without doubt, sought with sufficient care. They were by this time, however, safe enough. They had made their way to the thickest woods; and, having traveled many hours, were out of reach by the time they were missed.

After much examination of the country, they had found it a small island, inhabited by a few people of the same nation with the treacherous person who had run away with them, and these they found lived about the shores. They had sought out the thickest wood, most remote from any port, and in the center of that having found a little pond, with a constant spring for its source, they had fixed themselves there, cleared away the ground, dug the basin I had seen, and built that hut for their residence.

They added, they had never looked upon this place as an home: but that, not knowing how to escape from the island, they had contented themselves to remain there: the age of their parents, and the tenderness of the two young children, preventing the thought of so hardy an undertaking: but that now they had lost those parents, and these children were grown up a little, the place was doubly hateful, and there was less reason for their staying

staying in it. They had therefore a settled resolution of leaving it for a better; and the present accident had only brought that sooner into execution.

They paused for my approbation, and I gave it freely. They then proceeded. They found me perfectly determined to go with them, and they began to speak of the way. They told me, that their father had often talked to them upon this subject. He called it duty, and respected them for it greatly, that they staid on this unpleasant and dangerous island, because himself, their mother, and their little brothers, could not accompany them in leaving it; but he told them, that when they were dead, which must happen; and the other were grown up, he doubted not but they would return to their own country; and he advised them to it.

The passage by which they had been brought thither, he told them, was very long, and he was afraid the country itself was indeed at a great distance; but that it might be possible to get to it a much nearer way. The vessel in which they were brought thither, had sailed, he said, to the end of a vast country, and, coming round it, had sailed back again, as he judged, very nearly as far. All this he had commanded them to remember punctually. Now he judged that the country, round which they had come, was that in which their nation lay, and which he had always understood to be very great. If this were the case, he used to tell them, as they had not returned in the vessel quite so far

far from the end of the land, as they had gone to it, it must be, that their country, when they turned their faces toward the rising of the sun, lay almost strait before them, and only a little to the left hand. How broad the country was, he could not tell, but he believed they would find it easy to travel across it, for they were all black people who lived there, as he had heard, and would be kind to strangers. Their business, he concluded, was to go toward the rising of the sun, till they came to the edge of that island, then crossing the sea, which was narrow, to travel toward the rising sun, still only bending a little to the left hand, till they came to the edge of the other; for that, he told them, was but an island, as he supposed, like this, only monstrously larger; and that when they came toward the coast on the other side, they would find a country surrounded with mountains, but flat itself; of a very great extent, containing many kingdoms: that this was not overgrown with wood, like that unfavourable spot where they now lived, but was all like the little spot they had cleared; that it was full of clear rivers, and fine fruit-trees; and that all the nations were of honest black men. This, he told them, was their native country; and he gave them the names of all his old acquaintance, to whom, if living, they should apply at their return. He added, that here they would live, not only in prosperity, but in safety; for no white men ever came there; and that himself and they had only been stolen away, because they had
gone

gone to a remote place, yet farther toward the rising sun, where the sea came, and these stealers brought their ships.

C H A P. X.

The author explains to the sons, where their native country lay; and agrees to accompany them to it.

SUCH had been the continual lesson of the old man, in his life; and dying, he had repeated it. My sons, said he, I and your mother shall rest here; for it is all one where the dead lie: but when we are asleep, go you to the country I have so often talked of.

I heard all with great attention, and it was easy to comprehend the whole matter. I told them I understood it, and I would explain it to them. I added, that the journey was longer by much than they imagined: but to this they answered, that if it lay among the black men, they were safe; and that, if it was through woods and desarts, still there would be food; because they had always lived by their bows, and should be supplied in the same manner.

I told them, I loved and honoured them; that I accounted my countrymen savages; and that I had determined to live and die with them. They embraced me tenderly; and I added, that having resolved to go with them, and being happy in their way of life, I would
now

now tell them where there country was. They stared upon me; but I acquainted them, that, having been upon many seas, I had a knowledge of all the earth, even where I had not been, from the writings of those who had visited the rest of it. They were happy to find that I understood their father's description of the place; and I explained it to them in this manner:

I told them, that turning their faces to the rising of the sun, and a little to the left, their country was indeed before them, but at a great distance; that the land ran to the right to a vast distance, and then ended at a place called the Cape of Good Hope; and that, turning round that Cape, vessels which went to the left, went toward the Red Sea, not far from which this country of theirs must lie. That the vessel which had brought them, had come round this Cape, and was going to another very remote place, where they would have been kept as servants: but that now there was no need for them to take this vast circuit; but if they could find means to get over this sea, which was not broad, going strait toward the rising sun, then they might go the rest of the long way by land.

I drew with a stick, upon the sand, as well as I could, the figure of Africa, broad at the upper part, and narrower toward the Cape. I shewed them the place of the island on which we were, which lay in a nook of the sea, under the broadest part; and I marked out, near the opposite edge of Africa, what I took to be the place of their country, near
the

the Red Sea, a little above the streights of Babelmandel. They were surprized and pleased at the disposition I made of that part of the world. They wondered how I could know so much of countries I had never seen; but they told me, every thing I said agreed as perfectly with what their father had always told them, as if I had also been born there.

I now explained to them, as well as I could, the distance. I computed our traveling, at least twelve miles a day, which, allowing an hundred miles, or thereabouts, for a week, calling the distance, nearly the breadth of this part of Africa, which I take to be between two and three thousand miles, would make it a journey of about half a year, to reach the place. They were not in the least alarmed at the length of the journey; but were greatly surprized and pleased that I could make any guess at the distance. They told me, they should make up the whole in less time than I talked of, because they should travel much faster; but that come the worst, and suppose it is as long as I said, still it was only hunting upon different ground every day, for half a year together, instead of always hunting on the same, which was much less agreeable: and as soon as ever we were a week's distance from the shores, we should have no danger, for the white men never traveled farther. I told them I had no fears nor objections; and we settled every thing to our perfect satisfaction.

Thus we passed a long day in conversation, for we eat no more till evening, and then
only

only of the remains of our breakfast; for we ventured no more fire. As soon as day was closed, we sat out again, and by about midnight saw the sea.

We now came to an halt; and the business was to find a place of safety for the ensuing day. We retreated back into a wood; and fixed upon an obscure spot; and so cautious were we now, that we would make no fire. We fed the children, who could not so well bear hunger, with some fruits and roots; for our own parts, we were more intent upon our journey, than our stomachs.

Toward morning we each got into a separate tree, and viewed the country about us. We were not now at a greater distance than six miles from the sea; and we could see many houses, some single, some in little clusters, like villages. There was a place where the sea ran into a creek, and I thought I discovered a vessel of some kind, lying at anchor there. When we compared notes, I was confirmed. They had less idea of a vessel than I; but they had both seen something: I ascended the tree again, and I became quite convinced. I told them, this was a most fortunate event. This vessel we must seize, and it would carry us over.

We spent the day in gathering roots, and some dry fruits, by way of provision; and, as soon as it was dark, we drank each thoroughly of the spring, near which we had set up our rest; and, taking the children and our provision, we set forward. In less than two hours, we were at the spot. The vessel

was

was a light thing with a single mast, and lay at some distance from the shore.

I proposed our swimming to it, with as little noise as possible, and though it was probable no creature was on board, I took the loaded pistol by way of security. I swam to it, and getting in, after a few moments, gave them the signal, that they might come. They fastened for each other a child upon their backs, and then parted their weapons between them; and taking them and their provisions in the same manner, came on board.

CHAP. XI.

An alarming accident, but of no ill consequence.

I Received my two brothers, as I always called them, with transport on board, congratulating them, that now all danger was over. I had despaired getting off from the island, and I told them so now, though I would not dishearten them before; but, being on board a vessel very well able to carry us such a voyage, and fairly from shore; the wind also standing full in our favour, and tolerably brisk, I had no farther fear; and I told them all was clear before us.

The youths were naturally very bold; but they trembled at the sight of the sea, especially as it was a little rough. They saw a pathless desert, and dangerous; but I calmed their apprehensions.

apprehensions: I told them the novelty of the scene was all that alarmed them, and I was so accustomed to it, that I warranted them secure. When they asked how I could find my way in such a great water, and how I knew there was such a shore as I intended to reach, I pointed to the stars, as directors like the sun, and referred to their father's account, and to the figure I had drawn on the sand. My perfect assurance and composure calmed their natural fear; but they asked me the distance of the opposite shore, to this I could not answer positively. They were alarmed greatly, when I made the best guess I could, and measured it by the space of so many days journey, but when I told them how soon we should go through it in this vessel; when I talked of doing it in the course of the night, they were astonished and satisfied. They placed an absolute confidence in me, and believed, because I promised it, what would have appeared to them impossible in the course of nature. I told them we must swim out, as we had swam to the vessel; and prepared them for the running her ashore where we could.

All this discourse had passed while we were untying the children, and taking off the loads; but we were now astonished to hear a noise at one end of the vessel, and were presently spoke to in the Portuguese language, but imperfectly. I bade the person, on pain of death, stand where he was, and presenting my pistol at him, bade them be ready for their defence, but not to kill him in needless apprehension. Being dark, we had seen no person

person in the vessel; but this appeared to be a negro servant to the Portuguese who owned it; and who was put to guard the vessel, and to receive him at day-break, with several others, who were to go out for two days.

I was rejoiced at this notice, because I found there were provisions laid in, sufficient for a much larger voyage than it was probable we should make. I told the negro he might come to us in safety, and his countrymen, speaking to him in their own language, though he did not perfectly understand them, he knew they were blacks, and came up to us.

The language of the nation from which he had been taken, and of that where my brothers had been born, were so different, that they did not fully understand one another; and I was forced to be the interpreter between negro and negro. I told him, as well as I could, in few words, our design, and pressed him to share our fortune, and accept his liberty. He thanked us, and swore to go wherever we were going. He shewed us the provisions that were on board; and said, there only wanted water, which he was to fetch from the shore, and that he could easily do it before day-break. He swam off immediately, and we were happy in the thought, of having one added to our number. I busied myself as well as I could, in the dark, to put up the sails, with their assistance, who, though they knew nothing of the matter, were the most willing creatures in the world. We had laid the children down in the straw where the
negro

negro had laid, and all was ready, the sails were up, and the wind filled them, and stood for us full out of port; for this creek was nothing more or less than a little harbour.

I was impatient at the fellow's stay; and at length I began to suspect treachery. I was for putting off without him. They committed themselves wholly to my guidance; but they wished a little longer stay: he would be very useful; and as to treachery, black people never used it. I told them, he had lived long enough among the white men to learn their art; so there was no dependence on him: however, I had no objection to making the trial. I had never thought of weighing anchor, for we were to make no farther use of it. My design was to cut the cable, and I stood with my knife sharpened ready, and my hand at the rope, the vessel all the while being ill held by the anchor, the wind blew so fresh and favourably.

As I suspected, he returned with at least eight people with him. I heard their footsteps, and I cut the cable. Away we went before the wind. I bade my companions lie flat; and before they knew my intent, we received a volley of musket shot from the shore; but we were out of reach. They were extremely astonished; but as much charmed with my conduct: before they knew the danger, they had escaped it, and they were upon their course, without knowing even that. They paid me their thanks, as their preserver. Their unsuspecting tempers would have been their destruction: but it was
some

some good, that, in living among the treacherous, people grow guarded against deceit.

We heard a second volley, but we laughed at it. I knew by the stars we kept on our right course, and we went at a great rate. The vessel was tight, and a good sailer. We at length saw the day break, and though my companions were pleased with the light, they were terrified to see only water every way about them: they were happy to see the sun rise before them, and a little to the right. They were sensible they went right; and it is impossible to convey any idea of their acknowledgments to me.

C H A P. XII.

The author and his friends pursue their course to the continent.

ABOUT two hours after sun-rise, I proposed to them to eat. We looked into the stores, and found a noble preparation. The first thing I laid my hand upon, was a stone jar of water; so that the negro had been a rascal from the beginning. We found cold pies, and other things, delicacies which my companions had never tasted nor heard of. I advised them to eat sparingly; and as to drink, I set it all aside except the water.

They had been sick before with the motion of the vessel: and, if they had drank strong liquors, no one knows the consequence. We
rose

rose up from our meal refreshed, and the children were in great spirits. We went on before the wind, and nothing happened material till we saw the shore. It is impossible to describe their joy on sight of land, and more so, as I told them it was their native country; at least the continent in which their native country was situated. They begged me to stay till night, that we might land unperceived, for they think white men live every where about the coasts; but I told them I knew of none here, nor saw any thing that had the appearance of habitations. The shore seemed all level and equal, so that it mattered not where we landed. I advised them to get the children tied ready upon their backs, that they might be prepared at once to swim on shore; and putting up a little provision from what we found in the vessel, I gave them all the advice I could, about what they had to expect, and how they were to act.

Every thing was quite prepared, when the vessel stuck upon the sand. I threw myself out before them, and they followed without hesitation. We were at a considerable distance from the shore; but the first wave threw me within my depth, for the vessel drew little water. The scene was very terrible to them; but they had observed all my instructions, and after a great deal of pain and difficulty, we all got safe to shore, the children terrified and crying, but with no real hurt.

THE
T R A V E L S
OF
Mr. DRAKE MORRIS, MERCHANT.

B O O K V.
Containing what happened to him on the
continent of Africa.

C H A P I.

*The author and his companions begin a long
journey.*

WE found ourselves upon a barren coast ;
but the country about us was not
unpleasant. There were hills at a distance,
which were covered with forests of regular
trees ; and in the low country we saw some
woods also, the trees of which grew very
beautifully, and to a vast height. All this,
however, was at a distance ; for what was
immediately about us, was not altogether so
pleasant. We were upon a barren sand ; and
when we had travelled about an hour, we
H came

came to what, at a distance, we had supposed a meadow. But it was only a bed of damp mud, like that left in the channel of a river at low water; through which a few blades of grass grew at distances.

We had untied the children, and wiped, and given them some victuals; but we were forced to take them up again; for it was impossible their little feet should make their way along the sand or ouze. The brothers carried them however willingly; and they went at a great pace. The terror of Europeans was upon them, as they were near the shore; and the country, which we saw at a distance, was invitingly pleasant.

They begged I would agree to our making our way to the first wood, which I readily did; and we arrived at one before it grew dusk. They again embraced my knees here in love and congratulation. They said their dangers and their fears were now over: they comforted the children, and they betook themselves to preparing a bed, and fortifying it, for fear of beasts. For, being in a strange country, they knew not what might harbour there; and they had my accounts of the savages, which, I had been told, were frequent.

It appeared to me a hardship, that we were every day to build a new habitation; for we were to forsake each the next morning; but when I saw the way of doing it, it was nothing. My companions knew which herbs were tough, and which were brittle. They cut some of the smaller branches of the first,
and

and broke off larger pieces of the latter: they flaked down the one, and wound the others between, and thus inclosed a piece of ground of eight or more feet square, in a few minutes. The leaves and young shoots were strewed on the ground, by way of bed, and all was done with a facility that took off all that uneasiness from me. We were proof against any attack, and enjoyed a most pleasant scene about us.

When our hut was prepared, we went out into the woods to seek for roots and fruits; and the country was so much like that from whence we came, that there was no difficulty in finding them. The same things presented themselves every where, and some others, which the birds having pecked, we knew to be wholesome.

We got a good supper, and, beyond all expectation, found water. We had gone three or four miles into the wood; so that we had the security of a hiding, even if there were white inhabitants. My companions proposed to me, that we should stay here two or three days, to rest from our fatigue, and perfectly consider our course. I readily agreed, and we spent the remainder of daylight in adding to the strength of our hut, as we intended a longer stay in it.

We inclosed the first fence with a second, making the narrow entrance into that, in a part very distant from the entrance into the other, and against the strongest part of the wall, or first edge: we fresh covered the top with bows, and, by the close of the

evening, we had a resting-place, that would have been proof against almost any sudden assault.

We feasted on the provisions we had gathered; for those we brought from the ship were spoiled by the waves. The furge indeed was so great, that I look upon it as almost a miracle that we ever got on shore: none but ourselves would have attempted it; but men who are desperate, will do any thing. When we had eat and drank, we laid ourselves down, and were fatigued enough to be soon asleep.

We were not awake in the morning, till the sun had been up some hours. But we got our bows in order, and leaving the children, with charge not to stir till our return, we went out together in search of prey. We saw no four-footed animal, great or little, for several hours, and were about to return very ill satisfied with our sport, when I espied a bird, as big as a large fowl, on one of the trees. I got near him, which is not difficult to do, for they are not shy here, and brought him down with an arrow. It was a fine young pheasant. We looked about us, after this, more carefully, and found several other large birds sitting in the trees, though few of them were in motion at this time of the day. We had fine sport, now we had fallen into the way of it, and brought down about a dozen birds of different kinds and colours, but most of them resembling, in some degree, our common poultry. One was grey, another
black,

Black, and a red crest and wattles, and all in good case.

We returned to the hut, and making a fire at some distance, employed the children to pick the fowls, while we got water, and dug up yaws, a root like a potatoe, only a great deal larger, that serves instead of bread. We made an excellent meal, and spent the remainder of the day in conversation, and in walking out near the hut, as we used to do.

I could perceive my companions, though they had borne it well, were terribly fatigued with their last day's expediton, but they recovered themselves apace. We grew in spirits toward evening, and the children were recovered. They gathered berries and fruits, and chattered as they had done at their former habitation. We lay down to rest, after eating some cold fowl and fruits for supper, and in the morning we were up before day-break, and took the children out with us as soon as it was light.

We had now game enough, for every thing was stirring. We took our diversion leisurely, and the children ran about to pick up the game for us. After five or six hours most pleasant rambling, we returned to our habitation, and feasted ourselves with what we had killed. In all this time, we had seen no beast of the savage kind, nor met with what they dreaded much more any human creature. We resolved to stay no longer on this spot, but after dinner, climbing the highest trees, to see how the country lay, we took our observations for our route, and marked the stars

as they rose at night upon us. It is not the custom of the Indians to do any thing after dinner, no more is it of these Africans. They are up early, and after they have feasted at mid-day, they think of nothing but rest and indulgence, until the following morning. We lay down early, that we might rise soon, and in spirits.

We bid adieu to our hut by day-break, and set out leisurely, the children walking by our sides; and looking out for prey for us, beating the bushes, and examining the trees; we went on in this manner, which indeed was no more than sporting, for about eight hours, in which time we could not possibly have gone less than sixteen or eighteen miles. My companions asked me, if I thought we had taken a fair day's journey: I told them we had done considerably more than I had calculated for the day; they smiled, and said, it was with great ease, and the children were not at all fatigued. Far from being an incumbrance or trouble, they were absolutely useful to us. We had set out now in our regular way; and nothing could seem more agreeable.

We were loaded with game, and it was time to rest: but we saw no water; we travelled about an hour more, in hopes of some lake or spring, but not finding any, we took up our abode. We could not expect every thing would be prepared for us, and we must content ourselves as well as we could.

While the children picked the fowls, and got ready the fire, we had built our inclosure for the night, and for certain security, inclosed

closed it with a double fence. All this was the work of hardly an hour. We then dressed our dinner, and feasted with perfect satisfaction.

CHAP. II.

A new sort of provision, and a prospect of a better journey.

IN this manner we travelled for about fifteen days, mostly through woods; but they were of tall trees, without much underwood. I had foreseen a journey to Abyssinia, as a most terrible expedition, but there was in reality nothing in it; it was not to be called travelling, it was our way of life; shooting was our diversion, and one part of the country was as much our home as another. Our arbours were a perfect security, and they were the work only of half an hour, and every thing conspired to make us happy.

We had been used to hardships, and we bore them well. The greatest we met with here, was sometimes want of water; but this we supplied from the fruits and young shoots of trees; on the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth days of our journey, however, we had met with none; this was very hard; I saw a very high hill, not much out of the course of our route, and I proposed ascending that, in order to see round about us. We were upon the top of it toward noon, and we saw from it a

river, a large and rapid one, and running very nearly in our course. We were tired for that day, however, and we determined not to attempt it. Our thirst grew worse and worse, but we bore it. We rested till morning, and went down strait for the river. The children tripped merrily down hill, and in five hours walking, we came within the sound of its waters. We redoubled our speed, and came up to its banks: but these were so steep, that we saw it long before we could get at the water. At length we came to a place where we could reach it easily; we drank, we washed ourselves in the creek, for there was no venturing in the stream, and we set up our rest there for the day. We had game enough; we dressed it, and we feasted beyond what we had done for many days.

One of the children called to us, as he was playing about the bank of the little creek, to tell us that there were some pretty marks of feet upon the mud. We examined, and found it as they said. They were the impressions of cloven hoofs, and upon the strictest examination, we saw nothing that had the least look of human footsteps about or among them. It appeared, therefore, that there were cattle upon the ground, and that they probably ran at liberty; wild, and the property of all who could take them.

The island, in which we had lived, afforded no such animals in the uncultivated parts. The Portuguese had brought some over with them; but these were only about their settlements; my companions had never ventured
near

near these, so that they had either never seen sheep or oxen at all, or if they had, it was at a distance; certainly, they had never tasted their flesh. I was very happy in the thought of giving them the first taste of such delicacy, and I prepared them for it by many praises.

We feasted ourselves on the bank, at a small distance, and at the time I had expected, we saw several coming. They did not follow one another in a close succession, like the cattle we feed in droves, but it was the time of drinking for the evening, and wherever they had been grazing separately during the day, they repaired thither at this time, for the steepness of the banks made it impracticable to get any where else at the water. This was a large river, and its course lay down a very considerable descent, so that it cut its way in a very hollow channel.

The cattle were come in sight, and we scarce knew what to make of them. They were not much taller than common deer, and their limbs were as fine and delicate; but they were perfect bulls and cows in other respects. They were large bodied, the bulls had horns, which turned somewhat in the manner of rams, and both they and the cows had each a lump on the back, rising up between the shoulders. We shot four of them, and the rest seemed quit insensible of it. I believe we might, if we pleased, have killed an hundred, but there was no reason for it. We examined them with great attention, now they were down, and found them to be a small kind of buffaloes.

We feasted upon them two days, and then pursued our journey. We had turned a little out of our way, to come at this river, and we were sensible of it. We took care to get into the proper course again, and we travelled in the same easy way. It had not the appearance of a journey, but of days of sporting.

C H A P. III.

Containing an account of the disturbance certain animals gave in this place.

WHEN we had recovered our true direction, and gone twelve or fourteen days journey farther into the country, we were alarmed with a danger before unknown. As we were sitting, after dinner, one day, and the children were playing at a distance, they both cried out on a sudden; and, on our running to see the occasion, there was a snake of at least ten yards long, that lay looking at them; the creature was able to have swallowed one of them, and whether it was looking at them to terrify them, or with what intent I cannot say; but it lay still, and we dispatched it with our lances.

From this time we grew more careful of the children, and we had reason. We had now got into the midland country, and we were in danger from many a terrible animal, that never came near the coasts. I had hitherto
been

been pleased enough with our expedition, but I began to grow very weary of it. At every step were in fear of a scorpion, for we saw them crawling about every where. They are the nastiest ungainly things in the world, and their sting is very terrible. We saw some here with their bodies as large as small cray-fish. They would get out of our way if they could, but if that could not be done, they never failed to wound the person who was near them.

In the night, that ugly and venomous creature the centipes was always about us, and many a terrible hurt we got from it. Some of these were as long as a great dew-worm, and thicker, and their legs almost innumerable.

Beside these, we had enemies of a more terrible kind to guard against in the night; and it was very well that we preserved our sleeping-places by a double fence, for we were now in the native place of all the terrible beasts that are ever heard of. We frequently heard the roaring of a lion, which is the most terrible noise in the world, it bursts out at once like thunder. The tiger we also knew by its note; these passed by us unobserving; but we were two or three times beset in our hut by a leopard, that creature having the smell like a cat, and distinguishing prey at a distance.

The only security we had, was, that these creatures never came abroad in the day-time. We took care not to set out till after sun-rise, and we rested at noon, and, you may be sure, were doubly cautious about our hut for the evening; however, this was always made

ready in very good time, and we retired to it early.

In this manner did we travel several months in a country, the inhabitants of which were savage beasts, for there were no other; but we found plenty of food, for hogs, goats, and deer, are very numerous. The kids we found a most delicious repast. We made large fires to dress our food, and always piled up wood upon them when we went to bed, to keep off the savages that strouled about in the night.

C H A P. IV.

The travellers arrive at a Negro-town. Their reception there.

THUS we travelled among brute beasts alone, and had only for our comfort, that we were sure we went in a right course. At length, as we were one day setting, after dinner, before the door of our hut, a man came up to us. I was frightened; but my companions were rejoiced extremely. He was not like my brothers, as I called them, for they, though black, were not of the negro countenance. This man was short, and very strong made; his colour was a deep jet black, his eyes very large, and his teeth like ivory; his hair was curled like black wool, and his nose flat, and his lips thick: in short

short, he was a perfect negro. He spoke in a friendly manner to the youths; but he looked oddly at me. The language was not quite the same with theirs; but they made shift to converse with him; and, for one of the first points, they asked about water, of which we were in terrible want at that time.

The negro, after he had asked them some questions about me, which I did not perfectly understand, came up to me very affectionately, and assured me, by signs, of his friendship and protection. He then led us through the plain that was before us, and over a small hill, on the other side of which we saw a number of huts. This was a negro town.

We arrived thither by day-light, and found the people at the doors of their houses. They all came about us; but their curiosity was not troublesome. They brought out whatever they had in their houses, and we sat down in the street and feasted: but the greatest comfort to us was water, which we had excellently good from a spring, near the foot of the town.

After we had eaten and drank, they shewed us to our hut; for they had contrived to get one empty for us, and we slept in greater tranquillity and security than we had done for a long time. We staid with these honest and friendly people a week, and they pressed us to live with them intirely: but when our brothers had told them the commands of their father, they pressed them no longer. They understood very well where the country lay, and they gave us excellent instructions for the

the arriving at it. We took our leaves with great gratitude, and pursued our journey. These were a people, who I could perceive, had never seen an European before; for my beard, which I kept cut short, as well as I could, surpris'd them exceedingly.

Those negroes, who live near the coasts where the European vessels come, have always a quantity of baubles, which our people bring, among their ornaments; but these people had nothing of that kind. The men had only a coarse kind of stuff round their waist, and the women little else, except that their hair, which they pull strait with weights, was decorated with party-coloured berries. They were the most friendly people I ever met; and the obligations we had to them were very great, besides the information of our way, they instructed us, in the week we staid with them, in the manner of getting many kinds of food, and we profited very greatly by this, in the course of our succeeding journey.

CHAP. V.

The travellers having received good advice, continue their journey; but at length reduced almost to despair.

WE travelled a desert and disagreeable country, after this, for many weeks, and were detained by the rains in such a manner,

ner, that our journey was much longer than we had expected, for having no knowledge of this rainy season, I could not foretel it. At the time of our keeping still for this; and often during the course of our journey over these desert places; when by day we could find no water, and by night the wild beasts roared about us. My companions lamented their having ever left the island where they had so long lived. Nay, sometimes they were even for going back. But I told them the impossibility of getting over the sea again, and the certainty of our being destroyed by the white men, if we came there. However, I must confess, that obedience to their father's command, was more than all this. They were prevailed upon to pursue their journey; and I must confess, I was as much out of heart as they, but it was not my business, any more than theirs; to stop in the midst of a desert, in the inland part of Africa.

I have said long ago, in this history, that I had reconciled myself to live with these Moors for ever, and I continued long in my resolution; but it is not strange that I should waver, when they were wavering themselves. I considered Abyffinia as the country to which they were going; and I knew, by report, that it was a pleasant and a good one. It was therefore preferable to the present miserable spot. I had heard of it as a place where no Europeans ever visited; but I thought they some time might; or at least it was nearer the coast, and therefore there was more chance, some way or other, of my escaping to my
own

own country. If Europeans did not visit Abyssinia, certainly they did not visit the country beyond Abyssinia, and therefore I was here more out of hope than there.

With these thoughts, I encouraged their journey; but they became more and more disheartened. At length a ridge of mountains presented themselves before us: they stretched every way from right to left, as far as we could see, and they reached above the lower clouds. What were we now to do: we had found the miserable fatigue of climbing hills, and the want of all sorts of provisions on them. The sight was terrifying in the last degree. What had been dependence in my companions, became absolutely despair: and indeed I, who had so often comforted them in their distresses and apprehensions, now joined with them, offering nothing in alleviation, or in hope.

We sat down at the foot of these mountains though it was but morning when we arrived there, and we prepared our abode for the night. We doubly fenced it this time, for we had heard more and more of the savages of late, than before, and seemed, as we advanced, coming more into their absolute dominion, and farther from any country which was the habitation of men. We shot sufficient prey for our food that day, and we found a spring of very pure water, running down one of the hillocks, which joined the ridge of mountains at about a mile distance from the place where we had erected our habitation.

For

For that day we sat down before it to eat; and returned to our hut to repose, but the next morning we began early to erect a better, larger, and stronger, just by the side of the spring. We laboured at this from sunrise, till an hour or two after noon; and in that time we had set up a building of posts, rafters, and interwoven boughs, such as perhaps has seldom, if ever, been seen. The Indians build absolute huts, and so do the negroes; but we had been used to these arbours. and custom had given us a great facility in doing it.

The children dug up roots, and gathered berries, and we occasionally used the bow, during our work, as any thing came in sight. We had got enough for our dinner, by that time we had finished this noble cabin; and we had store of water, the want of which we had very often and very terribly felt before. We feasted; it was a fine day, and the prospects about us, though terrible, as places over which we were to journey, were beautiful to look at. An extended plain was before us, diversified with forests and plains, and some hills; behind us with a ridge of mountains, rising up above the clouds; and on one side, was the stream of water, the banks of which were covered with herbage, and, on the other, forests.

We had seen nothing of this in our despair the day before; but now we had eat and drank, we were refreshed, and we could taste the pleasures, such as they were, that offered to us. The negroes, the Indians, and these blacks,

blacks, all have the same tendency to ease and content. They have no idea or expectation of any thing more than the necessaries of life, fire, food, water, and a place of safety. Their despair was at an end. They saw themselves in a pleasant and fruitful spot, and they set themselves down to live upon it. They had obeyed their father as far as they could; to go farther was impossible; and here they rested. They never had any acquaintance with woman, so they did not consider the want of them as a disadvantage: and they took up their abode here in perfect tranquillity.

After a day or two, we added to our hut, and strengthened it more. We covered up the outer work to a certain height, with mud and earth; we added two rooms to it, of the same kind with the first; and it became a kind of model of that in which I had found the family on the island of Fernando.

It is natural to love the resemblance of what we have been used to. The hut was finished; but we wanted the pond or basin before it. They proposed it to me to make one, and I consented to assist. We had nothing to do, and labour was a pleasure. We drew the plan of our basin, and the youths, being accustomed to such works, made it large enough, and we set to work upon it. We had very sorry implements, but we made notable use of them. We did not labour to fatigue ourselves; yet the application being constant, it is surprising what riddance we made. The earth we dug up, we laid round about our hut, so that we were defending ourselves with
a thick

a thick and impenetrable wall, while we were making our pond. I smiled to think how truly these savages entered into the spirit of building and designing. The projector of Cannons, that Cannons which was once near Edgeware, never saw his walls rise, or his canals sink, with more pleasure.

All this time we lived in the midst of plenty of every kind. We never had so much of roots and herbs, as the banks of this rivulet afforded; and the forest, on our right, yielded berries and fruits in abundance. The country abounded with game, both of the bird and beast kind, and when we were too lazy to go out in the chace of them, we needed only mind their coming to water at the brook. There were some fish in the brook, but they were small, and we had not yet troubled ourselves to catch any of them. I had often considered angling as a fine idle diversion; but the materials were not easy to be found. At length, however, I made a beginning. We twisted together some of the thready bark of a tree, and made a small line: to this I tied a thorn crosswise, as they do in many parts of Norfolk, and baiting it with a large worm, I left it in the water all night. In the morning I took up a tolerable large eel. This was quit a new creature to them. They were alarmed at its resemblance to the serpents in figure; but when we had skinned and dressed it, they were charmed with the taste.

From this time we became indefatigable in the catching them. Instead of one, we laid forty.

forty or fifty baits every night, and we caught great numbers.

This led me to angling. It was but making a smaller line, and using a smaller thorn, and tying the tackle to a long stick. At a hundred yards from our cabin, the brook made a short turn round a rock, and burrowed a deep hole by the motion. I looked down, and saw there were fish, and I baited my coarse tackle. I had taken the youths with me, to see the diversion. Where fishermen are not frequent, very coarse lines will do. We all stood about the rock, and I dropped in my bait, I let it turn the corner with the stream, and I instantly felt a bite. I bid them observe, and I presently drew up a large fish.

They were charmed with the sport. It was enough. I would not enjoy it alone. We went back to the hut, and spent the afternoon in preparing five of these lines and thorns, better than the first. We made five very tolerable rods, and all was finished; the next day, instead of our going out with our bows, we set out to fish. We had great sport. We found several other very good places, beside the first, and we caught a great quantity.

C H A P. VI.

New resolutions taken, now our travellers have recovered thought.

WE lived upon this spot near four months. I had at first been very ill satisfied with it; but, by degrees, I had more and more reconciled myself to it. The great fatigues I had passed, made, me, like them, out of humour, at first, with every thing; but, by degrees, it grew better. Indeed, we had impaired our health and strength with this long and terrible journey, and the miserable manner of living; without food often, and often without water; so that our thoughts and resolutions were drooping; and accordingly we had now fresh breath, and fresh vigour; and no wonder we took up fresh resolutions. Obedience to a father had weight with them against all difficulties; and, in the same manner, the desire of seeing my native country, had inspired me to undertake a journey terrible to thought; for whatever resolutions I might, at times, take, of living with them all my days; were starts of despair, rather than real determinations. We had lost all our hopes, and all our courage, when we first settled on this spot, and it was because we had lost our health and strength. We had now lived a great while in ease and plenty, upon wholesome food, and good water: we were in health; and I found myself intirely recovered in my spirits.

The

The lazy disposition of these people, would have kept them for ever on a spot, where they could eat, drink, and sleep: but I had other hopes; my friends, and my engaged wife, though absent so long from them, still possessed my real thoughts; and I hoped to make their obedience, now kindled in their minds, assist in the enterprize.

I took the opportunity of a fair and favourable day, as we were out with our bows, and saw the tops of these terrible hills, to refresh their memories on the subject. Brothers, said I, we have travelled over a vast country, to come hither, and we have found a very pleasant spot. You see how the sun rises, and you find we have come right. Your father promised you, that you should find a fruitful and pleasant country this way, and I told you what I thought concerning the distance of it. We have really travelled very near as far as I thought we had to go, and I persuade myself that we are near it. This pleasant and fruitful spot where we live, after such barren deserts, seems a token of it; but this is not what your father enjoined, nor what I told you you might expect. We are to find a country, not only fruitful and pleasant, but inhabited; and you know, by the little we saw of the negroes town, where we were received so kindly, how much better it is to be in company, than alone. We have only these mountains to climb, and we shall see what lies before us; we have strength enough now, though they, in our former condition, terrified us; and come the worst,
if

if we dislike what we meet with, we can but return to this place again.

These people, with all their indolence, have a love of roving. They found their spirits like mine, and they instantly came into the proposal. Their obedience to their father's commands, their confidence in my knowledge of the situation of their country: every thing prompted them. When we had dined, we resolved upon it; and, as there was no time required for preparations, we set out the next day early.

C H A P. VII.

A very unexpected scene; but a terrible accident prevents the enjoyment of it long.

WE loaded ourselves with nothing beside our weapons and our fishing-lines, and we began to ascend the side of the mountains soon after day-break. We had been often enough unhappy to have learned experience. I was not for fatiguing ourselves, nor running away from any advantages. The rivulet which had supplied us with water, came down the mountains: we pursued its course, and though we made a short, it was a pleasant day's journey.

We took up our lodging on its banks, and, making up a hut for that night, refreshed ourselves, and reposed. Early we were out again; but, by my advice, we travelled slowly.

We

We still kept beside the water, and rested again by its banks. Thus we went up by easy journies; and the brook continued to supply us with water and with fish; its banks with herbage and roots; and we had enough sport and food of every kind; for birds and beasts lay about its banks: we were very happy; but who can be sure to continue so. Our journey was no fatigue; it was but sporting; but, alas! what a catastrophe? transport and anguish together. By what I have seen, the lot of mankind is such. We sometimes meet with misery by itself. But happiness has always something to allay it.

We had expected the stream to grow smaller, as we ascended higher, and were in continual fear of coming up with its source, and so losing it, and all its advantages. On the contrary, when we had, after about five days journey, ascended a very considerable part of these high mountains, we came to a place where the ascent was less; and the brook, instead of losing itself, was swelled into a kind of river, very deep and clear: we coursed the banks of this some miles, and, at length, to our inexpressible surprize, saw a bridge over it. I paid my thanks to heaven. We were certainly near an inhabited country; and I doubted not but it was that of which we were in search.

We walked over the bridge, which was sufficiently firm and strong; but seemed to have had no human foot upon it, of a long time, for it was grown over with weeds. My advice was, to rest there; though it was
early

early in the day, that we might consider what might be deduced from this promising appearance, and what way we should now take. On the opposite side of the river there was a nook of land, made by a sudden turn of the course of the river, it was like an island, it was covered with herbage, and there were trees at a distance; on this spot we fixed our habitation; and it was my first advice, that we should remain a week there, in hopes of some person coming over the bridge, who might direct us to the country we were travelling to find.

We built our cabbin on the spot, and after amusing ourselves a-while with our bows, prepared for fishing. We stood upon the bridge, and let our baits deep in the water, it was deep, but clear, and we had vast pleasure in seeing the fish swallow them. The children were playing about the banks of the river, and fishing from among the rushes.

I have mentioned, that I never saw the ties of nature in more force, than among these people. The sons were dutiful while their parents lived; and now they were dead, all their minds were taken up with affection for their brothers. We heard a sound of something falling into the water, and we found it was one of the youths. The stream was perfectly clear, and we could perceive him dragged along under the water; an otter had pulled him in, and was drowning him, that he might devour him, as is the custom of that creature, when it ventures on any thing large.

large. The brothers plunged in together, they dived to the place, and the otter, frightened, left his prey. They brought out the body, but there was no life in it.

What could have been so terrible a spectacle? two affectionate brothers saw the child they doated on, destroyed before their face. We left off our diversion, and we thought not of eating; the day was spent in true sorrow, and the resolution was, that the surviving child should possess all the affection, that had been bestowed upon the two.

C H A P. VIII.

The travellers hear a very uncommon noise, and determine to travel to it.

A T day-break I proposed to leave a place that I knew would only add to the grief we felt, and to pursue our journey; which was the most likely way to get rid of all other thoughts, as I supposed it would give us new objects for our attention. I was up by day-break, and I considered the course of the country: I saw one place, in which the ridge of mountains was lower than elsewhere, and I considered the direction in which the bridge stood. I made no doubt of its being on the road from some unknown little town, to this ridge in the mountains; and it appeared to me certain, that there must be something worth visiting behind them.

The

The youths followed my advice, desperate as it seemed; for it was to leave the stream, and make our way up very terrible ascents. Their distress for the loss of their brother, made them less mind danger. We quenched our thirst thoroughly at the stream, and took our leave of it. We travelled eight hours with very few words, or very little seeming attention to any thing, and we had mastered a great part of the ascent. We were thinking to pitch our tent for the night, but I distinguished a peculiar noise.

There was some wind, and the youths thought what I heard was the rustling of it among the trees at a distance, but I was sure it was water. We were thirsty, and they were charmed with the word: they always respected my opinion, and they proposed, as we were not yet tired, to advance toward the place whence I thought the sound came.

I perceived it was very distant; but it was in our right direction. The sound led us toward that break in a ridge of hills, which we had determined to see; and though I thought we should not get a sight of the place, I proposed going on an hour or two, that we might be assured what it was, and so be much nearer.

We walked three hours more, all the time more and more convinced it was water, for the noise all the time grew louder. We could perceive, however, it was yet very distant. We took up our abode in a tolerable place: we eat little, and were very melancholy. We had no water; but the very sound of this re-

refreshed us. As the stillness of the evening made it more and more plain : it seemed to me to be some very considerable water-fall, but at a great distance. However, the comfort of its being directly in our road, set all right. We were refreshed with its music all night, and we made no doubt of a more substantial refreshment from it the succeeding day.

We were out early, and we travelled briskly ; but still the noise, though more and more loud, was distant ; we saw nothing of the water this day. On the third day after our hearing it, we came in sight of what appeared a thick mist : but was only in one place. This, like the sound, lay strait in our way to the breach, and we must of necessity travel by it.

I was as little acquainted as they with the nature of what we saw ; but it seemed to me that the noise proceeded directly from the very mist itself. The appearance continued ; and we thought it very extraordinary. That a mist or fog should rise in one peculiar place, and should stand the terrible heat of the sun at mid-day, in this country, was very strange. It seemed to occupy about an hundred yards in breadth, and to rise to twice that height, in form of a white cloud, thicker at the bottom, and finer all the way up, till at last it lost itself in the air.

As we marched up to this strange appearance, and came nearer and nearer, the noise became insufferably loud, and we could plainly perceive, that it proceeded directly out of the center of the mist. My companions
were

were frightened: for though full of natural courage, I had before had opportunities of observing, that every thing which was new, appeared terrible to them. I told them, I did not understand what we saw; but I was sure, that what we heard was water, and there was nothing to be afraid of.

I had heard strange stories about the head of the river Nile, that waters Egypt; and I fancied we had come to the place. The exact situation of Egypt I did not know; but should have guessed it to be north a good way; but I imagined I erred in this. I could frame no notion of any thing but the head of the Nile to make such a terrible noise, and such a terrible appearance; and I expected to see a body of water, of fifty foot thick, rise out of the earth to a vast height, and with all this fury

The sun was fully upon the place, and, by degrees, we approached up to it. The first thing that struck us, as we came near, was, that the ground was moist, and particularly fertile in every kind of herbage; by degrees, it grew soft under our feet; and, soon after, we found ourselves wet, without knowing how. We were now in the circumference of the mist, although we did not perceive it; and the ground became so damp and rotten, that we could not advance. We stood still to view the scene, which we could not approach: we saw all that had carried the appearance of a cloud, or fog; and it was all water. There was no wind; so that it rose in form of a strait column, but not in

a body ; but in the smallest drops that could be conceived : and it fell again in the same manner. We were parched with thirst ; but we could not drink, though in the midst of water. We saw it in a form incapable of swallowing, and we were in a state like that of Tantalus. To advance was impossible ; but we might surround the appearance, for it did not occupy a great space ; and I hoped we should find the water (which I was perfectly convinced was in the center of this mist) more accessible from some other part.

We turned back, and advanced to the left ; it was all a steep hill ; but we determined to master it, though it appeared inaccessible ; we scrambled up rocks, that were all of naked stone, and at length found ourselves upon a kind of level. The earth fresh and green, with herbs of all kinds.

We now saw the explanation of all this mystery, and saw it to our full satisfaction. We were upon the banks of a broad river ; the water of which was very clear ; but the stream swifter than ever was beheld elsewhere. We drank plentifully, and then we went to examine this wonder.

The steep hill of rocks that we had climbed, ran across the whole country, and this river, after pursuing its course through the almost plain land on which we now stood, tumbled at once over the edge of the rocks, and fell into a sheet of water to the bottom. It was a strange and frightful sight. The depth, I am sure, cannot be less than fifty yards, and the river is very broad and deep. It falls
down

down upon the rocks at the bottom, and divides into two branches, one large, the other little. I could see by the course of the little one, that it was that we had so long followed. We need not have feared coming to its source; for it was not a little brook, but a branch of this great river. The noise was prodigious, and the effect was full as surprizing. The water, as it dashed upon the rocks, sent up a prodigious quantity of drops and spatterings; and these rose to a great height, by the force of the fall, and from thence descended again, like a shower of very small rain. This was what made the fog or mist, as we took it to be: and, as the cause never ceases, there must certainly be this fog continually upon the place.

CHAP. IX.

The travellers reach the top of the mountains.

WHEN we had taken our fill of this surprising water-fall, which, I suppose, nobody of this part of the world, ever saw before; we travelled along the level country, I believe, eight or ten miles; we then came to the foot of another ascent, nothing like so steep as the first; and at the top of this was the breach, over which we were to pass. It had appeared small, from our distant view; but we now saw it was of many miles extent. We kept by the side of the river; and took

up our abode for the night at the foot of the ascent, very happy to see the end of our long expectations.

In the morning we set out early, and with fresh spirits; we travelled briskly, and about an hour before noon, we were at the top of the ascent. The breach, as we had called it, was a surprising sight; it was a vast plain at the top of this amazing high mountain; and yet, on either side, the mountains rose greatly higher. We had expected to look down into a new country, and, as we hoped, a pleasant one: but we could now only look forward; the plain extended a great many miles: we had yet some hours, and we determined to employ them all in attempting to get cross it.

The whole scene was very surprising. We were among the clouds; and though it had been very hot on the low ground, we were here cold. We found the earth covered with a great variety of plants, and little shrubs, but all low; and, to our much greater surprize, when we had walked about two hours and a half, we saw a vast lake of water.

We drank of this, and found it very fine; but as cold almost as ice: and we saw in it plenty of fish. How wonderful is nature; what a sight was this! a lake of still and clear water, upon the top of, I believe, the highest mountain in the world.

We pitched our tent by the water; but we were troubled to find materials to build it; however, we had less fear of wild beasts than elsewhere, and we made the best we could
out

out of the low woody plants, that lay every where spread upon the ground. When we had prepared our place of rest, we got our fishing-tackle ready, and the child made a fire of the stumps of some of these shrubs. We fished very successfully, and, with what little we had killed in the morning, we dined tolerably well. We spent the afternoon in fishing and in admiration of the place.

Here was a plain capable to hold a city. A parcel of people might live here, and leave their children behind them for ages, who should never know that there were any other of their kind in all the world. We supped upon our fish; for we had made but a light dinner; and we were not afraid to sit up till dark; for this was no place for lions and tigers.

In the morning we pursued our journey toward the rising sun, and walked very briskly. Eager to come to the verge of the mountain, and look down into the country that was before us. We had a longer journey upon this plain than we could have conceived. Toward mid-day we came to the extent of it; and the descent appeared steep; but it was in vain we bent our eyes toward the bottom; we were above the clouds, and we must be much lower before we could see any thing that was below.

As we had not been so fortunate for the two or three last days, as usual, with respect to provisions, we were not quite so alert in our minds, and we had stopped at the verge of the descent, leaving what might be done farther till the morrow.

The tops of the mountains afford few animals: I only wonder any live there; and that we were not starved in the passage; however, though hungry, we had spirits, now the worst was past: we refreshed ourselves as well as we could, and rested for the night; if not very warm, yet quite secure; which was no little matter to persons so used to danger.

In the morning we set forwards: the downhill was very easy. We rided a great deal of ground; and were through the cloudy part before mid-day. Still the prospect was nothing. The hills were steep in some places; but there were plains between; and we were two days more before we could see any thing like an open country below. On the third we saw it. The distance was very great, and the way was rough; but from this time we pushed on with a vigour and spirit we had never known before.

The first appearance of the level land, was as a prospect painted upon canvass, we saw an endless country, all in miniature. We could see darker spots in some places, and lighter in others; and we fancied some to be towns, some forests and some rivers. As we descended the hills, we found springs in abundance; and we came every day into better and better places, as to provision and temperance of air.

At length the descent was easy, and we saw plainly enough the country below. Our travels were at an end, and they were accomplished the most happily in the world.

We

We saw a fruitful and sweet country, watered with rivers, full of beautiful prospects; and we distinguished towns scattered up and down in plenty.

Stop, reader, with me, to think upon my situation. I had travelled over a vast continent, through woods and deserts, in danger from a thousand accidents at once, and out of reach of any thing human: I had now before me a fruitful country, peopled, and full of all conveniences.

We stood a while, when we were in full view, and then set out with a renewed speed, and determined never to stop, till we were among the habitations. I had all along supposed the country, they described from their father's words, to be Abyssinia. I doubted not but this was it; and I gave Heaven thanks.

If I should ever have an opportunity of getting back to my native country, I should be happy. Thus I thought, and this, though a country not frequented by Europeans, yet gave more prospect of that, than such deserts as I had before lived in, where no such ever could come: if not, and if I was doomed to spend my life in an unknown country, and among people whom we call savages, this was, of all the world, that country, and these that people, if report might be credited, among whom it would be tolerable to live.

I congratulated with my dear companions on our escape from our many dangers, and on the prospect of our better fortune; and taking hands with both, and placing the child before us, we advanced to the habitations of some of the people.

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THE
T R A V E L S
OF

Mr. DRAKE MORRIS, MERCHANT.

BOOK VI.

Containing what happened to him in the kingdom of Abyssinia; and his dismissal from thence.

CHAP I.

The reception our travellers meet with in a family.

A Father, and his whole family of children, met us as we approached: the house, for it deserved a better name than hut, was low, but not small; built with some regularity, and sheltered by a number of palm-trees. It was near mid-day when we arrived, and they had been sitting under a delightful shade. We were led into the house, and immediately after conducted toward the trees. The ceremony of introducing

us,

us, was only to tell us, it was at our service; and we were invited to the more pleasant shade.

The moment that the father of the family came in sight, I was convinced of two things, and both very agreeable and important to us; the one, that we were in Abyssinia; and the other, that this was, as I had guessed, the country which, unknowing of its name, they had described to me. This was a place the most to be desired of all the world. This was a reception that called for tears of gratitude. They call these people savages. Where is the place in our own country where three miserable strangers, with a weary child, would have been received into the house, and treated like friends, by the first family they approached. We, whose people murder the wrecked sailor, that they may seize upon the cargo of the vessel, call ourselves a civilized nation, and these people barbarians.

The face of the country, than which I never saw any thing more pleasant, was the first thing that made me conceive it to be Abyssinia, as I had expected; but all the rest I gathered from the person of our host; and the figures of his family. We have a way of calling all people negroes who are black; but that is a great error. The negroes are a peculiar people; they inhabit a particular part of Africa, and are distinguished by the woolly nature of their hair, and the coarseness of their features. The two youths, my companions, though black, were not negroes, nor were this family. The father
was

was a tall well shaped old man, with regular features; the sons were in the prime of life, and notwithstanding their colour, were very handsome. Their skin was smooth, and like jet, not of the footy black of the negroes; their hair long, and jet black, and their features regular and good, their lips thin like ours, and their noses high. In the house we saw women, two or three daughters and a servant, and they were also agreeable in their persons, notwithstanding their colour. The old man had a loose gown, of a kind of cotton, upon him, and the women were also covered intirely. The sons had a piece of the same kind of stuff about their waists, which they turned like a Scottish plaid over their shoulders, and brought round them; they had a kind of shoes also, which reached up to the middle of their legs, and tied at the top: otherwise they were naked.

When we had been seated a little while, one of the youths, who had left us, returned, and presented to the old man a cup, of coarse earthen-ware, filled with liquor. The old man looked up to Heaven, and tasted it, and then sent it to me as the greatest stranger, for so my colour spoke me; and this was all the distinction it occasioned. The liquor mantled and smiled, and when I tasted it, was like oat-ale. It was certainly brewed from some kind of corn. I drank heartily, and gave it to my companions.

Soon after, some cotton, in the piece, was brought to us, and they cut off what would do to cover each of us about the middle; for

we

we were quite naked. When we had put this on, the dinner was served; for they were all this time waiting for it; and the women came to us.

Very little was said during the repast, which was plain, but very good, and to us elegant and luxurious. We had two dishes of stewed meat, I believe one was beef, and the other kid. We eat with it bread new baked, but I think, certainly made of wheat; and afterwards we had butter and cheese, both very good. We drank the same pleasant liquor, and we had, after all, a glass a-piece, and no more, of what seemed a kind of wine; but it was poor and ill made, half sour and weak.

The dinner was European. I was charmed; and I desired nothing more than to be among these people for ever. Here were enough of the customs of my own country; but none of its barbarities. What a change from the life we had hitherto passed!

C H A P. II.

The travellers are conducted to the sovereign of the country.

WHEN we had dined, the old man asked the name of our country, and the occasion of our coming. The elder of the youths, my companions, answered, that their country was Gojam. The old man understood

stood the word, and answered, it was a considerable journey distant toward the rising sun: When they told him the name of their father, he leaped up from his seat, and asked if he was living. They answered, no. He kissed the earth, cast up his eyes to Heaven, and shed some tears. He then called out an antient woman, his wife, whom we had not before seen; her infirmities not permitting her to sit down with us, and told her their friend was dead, but here were his three children.

The old woman embraced the youths, and the man told them, that they had been acquainted. He made them understand, that their kingdom, they belonged to, lay in the same country with this, and I understood now, which I had not known before, that Abyffinia was divided into several provinces.

After great professions of friendship, we sat down again to our discourse. The old man asking them how they came hither, and to what place their father and they had been carried; it fell upon me to answer, I explained to them his having been carried in a ship round all Africa, and his escaping on the island of Fernando. There, I told them, he had lived. There I had found him and them, after escaping from a set of my own cruel countrymen, and from thence I had taken them across the narrow sea, that parts that island from the continent, and that I had led them across the whole continent of Africa, to this place.

The story was wonderful, but the youths confirmed it. The old man and his family were

were eager to know what had befallen the family of the youths in every step; but when they had sufficiently informed themselves of that, they had the curiosity to hear my history. I did not expect to be believed, if I related all; so I selected such parts as were least surprising, and they caused sufficient wonder.

The old man, when he had heard me out, told me, the sovereign of their country must see me; he had great curiosity, they all assured me, and as he saw so few strangers, he would be greatly rejoiced at the opportunity. As I had now spoke their language for a great while, I was sufficiently intelligible; and after a few days refreshment, we all set out together: the whole family thinking it no little merit, that they could present me to their prince.

CHAP. III.

The author is introduced to the sovereign, and his reception.

I FOUND more of the civilized turn, in what I saw of this old man's family, than I had ever expected to see in a country of Barbarians, as they are called. What was my astonishment at the scene that now presented itself! We were all mounted on mules, and made our way in procession; the old man in front, and myself in the center, with the two youths

youths by me. I was now the most considerable person. We set out by day-break, and rested at night upon our way. The next day toward afternoon, we arrived at the end of our journey. In our way we had passed by several considerable towns, in which were churches, and other large buildings; and the country was all cultivated. The fields were full of corn of several kinds, many of them unknown to me; and several of them with an herb with a blue flower, which I understood was flax. I never saw any part of England that was more perfectly cultivated, than many parts of this pleasant country. In other places we past over waste grounds; and in some were barren sand. There were some little hills; and on the sides of them generally a quantity of vines. The grapes were not ripe, but they seemed very fine.

Many a very pretty town we came near, which I expected to be the metropolis, and seat of the sovereign; but I was mistaken. We went into none of them. At length, when the old man told me we were at the end of our journey, all that I saw was a vast encampment. We were met by parties of soldiers, riding upon mules, and each leading a horse. It seems they value the horses extremely, and never ride them, except in battle. We passed unmolested through the ranks of a great army, and at length arrived at a number of magnificent tents. Here we alighted, and the old man acquainted some of the people in office with our business.

We

We were received with great favour, and I was informed I should be heard the next day. In the mean time all imaginable care was taken of us: we were feasted and attended as if we had been princes, and reposed in the tent where we were first received.

In the morning a person came, who washed me and perfumed my skin: I was then dressed in a robe of loose yellowish silk, and led into the sovereign's presence. I saw a court that astonished me. Though it was in the field, and only in a tent, the magnificence was surprising. The officers of the army were in their several ranks: there were a number of great officers; and immediately about the sovereign, certain persons of great distinction, who were something peculiar, in the manner of our knights of the noble orders.

They opened to right and left, to give me an audience. I had been informed of all the ceremonies, and I took care to comply with them. I was charged very strictly to answer nothing but the truth, and I was cautious enough on that head: it was not my design to say all that was so: much of my story was too strange to be believed.

After a few questions with regard to myself, and the manner of my coming into this country, which I answered cautiously, and brought the youths in part to attest; I found the principal questions turn upon much more substantial points, than my private history. The acts and laws of my country were the great

great topics; and the prince many times expressed his desire of entering into commerce and engagements with us; but the difficulty was plain, the Turks were in possession of the coasts, and they did not care to let any nation have intercourse with Abyssinia.

I was dismissed after an audience of near four hours; but with orders to attend the next day. In this manner I was called upon every day, for above a fortnight, to give what account I was able, of the constitution, laws, and customs of England. The prince was a person of great sagacity. Many of his questions were such as I was not able to answer. But having at first acquainted him that I was a mean person, and not acquainted with great things, he always allowed this as an excuse for my imperfection and ignorance. He seemed greatly pleased with my information, and the more, as he saw I gave it with truth, inasmuch as I would not speak where I was doubtful. At the last, he asked me, whether I chose to remain there; or go back to my own country.

The words revived a thousand tender thoughts in me of my uncle's affection; but, more than all, my love pleaded for it: on the contrary, the youths, who had loved me as brothers, begged that I would not leave them. Now that I had gone through so many hardships: they intreated me, with tears, not to go from them now all was happiness. I bowed to the sovereign, and confessed that I was drawn strongly both ways; and knew not which to choose.

I was

I was dismissed with a load of presents; and told I should be sent for again: in the mean time the sovereign bade me set my heart at rest, for it should be as I chose: if I preferred staying, I should have an appointment from him: if I went, he would not send me away empty. He should commission me to speak to the king of my country, if I went thither, to have a league of friendship and of trade between them: nay, if I determined to stay, he said, he would reward me highly, if I would visit my own country, and return.

C H A P. IV.

The author determines to revisit his native country.

THE affection of my two companions, and their intreaties, made it very hard for me to think of leaving them; on the other hand, when an opportunity was offered me to go to my friends, and my betrothed wife, whom I loved dearer than all friends; to refuse it was ungrateful and unnatural. However, so much time had passed since, they might be dead; or Miss Fortrey, having given me up intirely for dead, might be married to another.

Every thing was uncertain, and therefore I embraced the last proposal of the sovereign, which was, to go into my own country, and having delivered my commission to return. I proposed this to the two youths; and when I assured

assured them of the certainty of my returning back, they agreed to go with me. One of the sons of the old man, who had also taken a particular affection to me, desired to accompany me, and his father consented.

All being thus settled, I desired another audience of the sovereign, and it was most readily granted. I mentioned my design, and it was received most favourably. The sovereign gave orders for finding the best means of my getting off; and asked me, what presents he had best to send the king, my natural master. I told him gold, I saw there was a great deal in the country, and he ordered a most magnificent quantity of it. They dig no mines in Abyssinia, so far as I could learn; but they find pure gold in the sand of rivers, and on the sides of mountains, after the rainy season. The rains, it seems, last three months, and the torrents run incessantly down the mountains, during that time, and after these are over, they find the gold.

Every thing was preparing for my departure; and I was happy, that whatever I found the face of things in England, those who were most dear to me, were with me, and I had a country to which to return. I was busy in considering whatever might be agreeable for my employment, and I saw the sovereign daily.

C H A P. V.

A very sudden and unexpected accident, which destroys all the author's intentions.

I HAD been dreaming over the splendor with which I should appear in my own country ; when I was waked by the rushing in of some body to my tent. The lamp was immediately put out, and I heard a voice speaking in an unknown language. I was terrified and astonished. I called out, but it was to no purpose. I was taken out of my bed, a robe thrown over me, and carried out. I was laid upon a mule, as I suppose, for it was dark, and I was carried away at a great rate.

When day broke, I saw people about me, in habits different from those of the country ; and I could not understand a word they said. When they thought proper to bait, they gave me food, and they treated me, though with no respect, yet without cruelty. We travelled many days, and at length arrived among a people, all habited like these. I perceived they were Turks. I was taken before a great person, and should have been examined, but I understood not a word that was spoken, nor was a word of mine understood, and we had no interpreter. I was carried from his presence with little ceremony, and I found myself a slave in a Turkish family.

What a fall was here ! what a heart-breaking stroke ! after so many dangers, and such difficulties ; when I had found reception,
friends

friends, and even a convenience for going home; to be stripped of all, reduced to the miserable condition of a slave, and that, to such masters, without hope of ever seeing my country or my friends, and separated even from those dear youths, who were as a second kind of relations to me; it was terrible!

Often I thought to destroy myself, but my religion, thank God, always got the better of those thoughts; I determined to wait some opportunity of making a desperate attempt for liberty. Strange chances had happened to me, and they might again. I easily understood, that the reason of being carried away, was, that the Turks, who never want intelligence, had heard of the intent of sending me to make a treaty with England; it is their interest no European should traffic with the Abyssinians; because, while they keep off all such commerce, they have the products of the country at what rate they please. I imagine I should have been murdered, but that they want christian slaves in that part of the world. There is hardly a Turkish family there without one, though they are very difficultly got. The whole design was to take me off; but I owed my life to their having a use for me.

C H A P. VI.

The author determines to run any hazard to escape from his new masters.

IN this most miserable of all captivity, I remained seven or eight months, hurried from place to place; for though I do not know for what reason, the family I served were almost continually upon the march. I gave up all hope: and I delivered myself over to the most perfect despair that ever possessed an human breast.

It happened, that, in one of our journies over a sandy desert, we came up with another party toward evening; and, after finding they were no enemies, we rested near them. By the little I had now got of the language of my master, I found this other party were Europeans, travelling with a passport. My deliverances have always fallen upon me like my misfortunes, unexpectedly, and without any contrivance of my own. I had resolved to make a desperate attempt for my liberty; and here was the opportunity. I got away at midnight, and came to the strangers. They were a mixed company of Danes and Spaniards; but their principal, a person of quality, spoke the Portuguese language; and I was able to converse with him a little. I told him my story, and he took me into his protection. He was going into Abyssinia; for we were now on its borders, with the intent of settling an European

correspondence; and he was charmed with the account I gave him, of the commission with which I was to have been honoured. He was going on a venture; and he was transported to take into his retinue a person who was known to the sovereign, and respected by him. He told me to have courage, for he would protect me at all adventures. His party was the larger; and if force was necessary, he would use it.

My masters missed me in the morning: and there was but one place to inquire for me. They knew I must be with the Europeans, and they sent a civil message, to claim me back. The answer was a very plain and short one. The account I gave of myself was related, and my protector added, that, being going to the court, he should soon know if it was true; if not, he would give me up to them; if it was, I had a right to my liberty.

We were, after eight days march, received at the court of a sovereign; but it was not him to whom I had spoken. Abyssinia is divided into many principalities. I had like to have lost my credit with my protector, on being a stranger to the sovereign: but this was soon explained; and I became necessary to him, as I was the only person acquainted with the Abyssinian tongue; which is spoken nearly alike in all the provinces.

This sovereign was not so curious, or so sensible a man, as the other; but he had a very good heart: he received us favourably, and, after a month's stay, dismissed us with
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great marks of honour; and with the heads of an alliance.

In all the time I staid here, I enquired often about the other sovereign; and I was understood as to the province; but learned, that it was very distant. I knew not the length of our stay, else I would have attempted something. I dreaded falling again into the hands of the Turks; so that I departed without any attempt to see that generous prince, or my dear friends again.

It was with great difficulty we escaped. The Turks had notice; or, at least, they had suspicions of our intent. We fought our way through one party; and, I suppose, escaped another by losing our way; for we were told, they were out after us; and we found we had been many more days on our journey, than we should have been. How the divine providence directs all things for the best!

C H A P. VII.

Very strange accidents again beset the author; but at length he arrives in London.

AT length I found myself on board an European ship, in company with several others; and destined first to Spain, and afterwards to Denmark. I found great kindness from my protector; but still all was not favourable. I was too useful to obtain my discharge. I touched with him where he was appointed; and I arrived with him in his own country.

I here solicited my discharge; but fair words softened the refusal. After a tedious expectation, I was reduced to the necessity of embarking with him again: and I know not how or when I should have seen my native country, had not that providence, which always presides over the innocent, and which had so often protected me, at length relieved me wholly: and that by an accident as strange as any that had befallen me.

We were in a very remote part of the world; and, for any thing I know, destined again to Abyssinia, for I could see, that, under the appearance of the greatest civility, I was kept in the dark about every thing, and only a slave, without the name; when a dispute happened between these Danish and some English ships. In consequence of this, I was taken on board an English vessel; and,

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as my great good fortune would have it, that in which was the commander.

I begged to be introduced to him, and, after some difficulties, I was admitted to that honour. I told my name and family, my sufferings and my expectations. I mentioned my uncle, and his offers to any that should restore me to him; and intreated that I might, at length, see my native country; and owe to his goodness, what so many thousand accidents had hitherto prevented.

He heard me with great patience; and he told me my story was altogether romantic; but that there was an air of truth in my delivering it. He asked me many questions about my late commander: all which I answered faithfully. He seemed surprized at my account of those people, as much as at what I had related of myself: but he told me, to my great comfort, that he was going back to England, and would certainly carry me thither. He was glad to think he should restore me to relations who desired to see me: and he added, he should want me as an evidence, with respect to the Danish vessels.

After the many wonderful occurrences, with which this true, but strange, history is filled, I shall not detain you, reader, with the account of our passage home, in which there was nothing particular. After so long an absence, I arrived in London: I found my uncle grown feeble with age and sorrow, but rejoiced to see me. Alas! man's happiness is never perfect! Miss Fortrey had been dead several years. I fear my misfortunes:

fortunes broke her heart, and I shall pay the respect I ought to her memory, by never thinking of another woman.

My uncle's kindness to me, is enough to drown all thoughts of affliction; and yet, gentle reader, I do not conclude this relation without tears, when I think of my betrothed wife, who died during my absence; the old Portuguese, who was killed upon my back; or the honest youths, whom I so long called my brothers.

F I N I S.

